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北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY



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The crew of the Gothenburg wave goodbye to Jakarta.

Photo provided by Alice Jian

'Reborn' Gothenburg heading to China

By Alice Jian / Wang Xiaoyuan

2:40pm, June 28th, Jakarta, Indonesia, the Swedish East India-man replica merchant ship the *Gothenburg* began the last leg of its China expedition and will arrive at its final destination, Guangzhou, once the starting point of the ancient Marine Silk Road, in 20 days.

Forty minutes ago, all the crew, in their deep blue uniforms, lined No. 2 Dock of Tanjung Priok Harbor to bid farewell to Jakarta. Crowds of people gathered to watch, waving and cheer-

ing. Mr Sutiyo, provincial governor of Jakarta and Lennart Linnér, Sweden's ambassador to Indonesian government, accompanied by the captain, met and shook hands with the crew.

The send-off ceremony was brief but encouraging. After speeches by local celebrities and a representative of the Indonesian government, Captain Peter Kaaling expressed his appreciation of the warm welcome the city had given his ship, and thanked all the people working on the *Gothenburg* during the stay in Jakarta. The

crowd and the crew responded with thunderous applause.

At half past two in the afternoon, the boatswain and five senior sailors took up the gangplank. The *Gothenburg* left port slowly to the sounds of a gun salute, sailors' singing, car horns and shouts of, "Take care! See you in Guangzhou!"

The *Gothenburg* arrived in the city on June 18, 261 years after the original *Gothenburg* of the Swedish East Indiaman made port at Batavia, now Jakarta. In 1745, the *Gothen-*

burg ran aground in the middle of Goteborg harbor in Sweden on her return home, and sank with her entire cargo. Eventually the *Gothenburg* was forgotten, until 240 years later when she was rediscovered by divers. A Swedish trust has rebuilt the ship and she is now under sail on the old route from Sweden to China.

As the only Beijing media invited to take part in this historic voyage, over the coming three weeks *Beijing Today* will report on the *Gothenburg's* long delayed return to China.

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China unlikely to criminalize gender identification

By Han Manman

China is unlikely to criminalize gender identification, as the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (SCNPC), China's legislature, Monday deleted an article on the issue from a draft amendment to the Criminal Law.

The article stated that those who help identify the gender of a baby for non-medical purposes face three years in jail, probation and fines.

The draft was debated and passed at the SCNPC's last two meetings on revising the law. Monday's was the third revision meet-

ing. The article proved highly contentious among the lawmakers, with an even split between supporters and opponents.

The gender imbalance at birth in China is becoming more and more severe. Currently, 119 boys are born for every 100 girls, much higher than the global ratio of 103 to 107 boys for every 100 girls.

Many SCNPC members believe a law is needed to prohibit testing for fetal gender, as in their view this is a major contributory factor to the gender imbalance in newborns. If the latter continues, it will have a negative effect on China's pop-

ulation structure and ultimately social stability. Legislators believe that gender imbalance is already a nationwide problem and they fear that gender testing services are out of control. The situation may be even worse in some inland villages where the service is provided by unqualified or illegal agencies.

Other representatives and law experts believe there are complex social reasons behind China's unbalanced gender figures. Traditional ideas in China, particularly in rural areas, which favor male children, and the belief that a son will better care for his par-

ents in their old age cannot be changed by the Criminal Law, they say.

There is a view that parents have the right to know their baby's gender. The original draft of the amended law would have seen doctors facing criminal charges if parents elected to abort a pregnancy after a fetal gender test. Some experts believe such a policy would be impracticable in the real world and that it would be hard to gather evidence of such a crime.

The draft is still subject to a final vote before becoming effective.

Two killed in Beijing subway collapse

By Qiu Jiaoning

Two workers were trapped and killed when a subway construction site collapsed on Tuesday.

The accident happened in the third phase of Metro Line 10 in Haidian District, where the two workers, surnamed Xiong and Wang, were digging up the tunnel. They were found dead by rescue workers four hours after the tunnel collapsed.

Beijing Municipal Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision and Beijing Construction Committee are investigating the accident. An official from the bureau said that drifting sands had caused the accident but refused to give any details.

Tuesday's collapse is the second accident in a Beijing metro construction site this week. The other accident happened in the southwest exit of Xuanwumen Station of Metro Line 4 on Monday. Fortunately, no one was injured.

Many migrants from rural China have been drafted in to help build Beijing's new subway lines as pressure increases on the authorities to improve traffic conditions ahead of the 2008 Olympic Games. Local authorities have vowed to avoid similar incidents.



Crack down on illegal guns in the capital

Local police confiscated over 100 guns across the capital in a campaign against illegal weapons launched in June.

Photo by Dragon Wang

Drugs tests for nightclub staff

By Han Manman

Barmen, waitresses and door staff face being given random drugs tests as part of a wide sweeping police crackdown on drug dealing in the city's most popular nightspots.

From now until the end of the year, the Dongcheng branch of the Beijing City

Police will carry out spot checks on major entertainment venues including pubs, bars, nightclubs and KTV clubs that have a history of drug dealing and drug use.

Staff will be given urine tests and if found to have been using drugs will be arrested and jailed for three months

and their place of work closed for six months.

Cheng Ping, from the anti-drug department of Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, said drug abuse was a severe problem in many entertainment venues in the city with some staff openly using and dealing drugs.

Rosewood furniture for Chinese only

By Chen Shasha

A 'Chinese only' sign was found recently in two furniture markets in the west fourth ring road and Tian Tongyuan, leading to claims that foreigners are being banned from buying rare rosewood furniture.

The signs can be found both outside the entrance door and on the rosewood furniture, including rosewood tables, bookshelves

and beds, together with the Chinese flag. Liu Junyun, manager of Yi Zhibao Furniture Company, which operates in the market, said the signs were placed on items they wanted to prevent them from being exported abroad. "These pieces of furniture are of great value and we should ensure that they are passed down from generation to generation in China," she said.

Interactive guide to the Forbidden City

By Chen Shasha

Visitors to the Forbidden City will soon be able to use their mobile phones to find their way around the sprawling tourist sight.

The Forbidden City museum and IBM Company are working to produce an interactive guide to the city called 'Forbidden City beyond Space and Time' in time for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The project will use an interactive visitor-oriented guide to provide services for web users and those who visit the Forbidden City. Tourists will be able to find out where they are in the city with a simple click of a button on their mobile phones.

Visitors will also be able to download the history of exactly where they are in the Forbidden City via their phones.

Landmark Olympic buildings to be opened to the public

By Fan Ruohong

Two landmark Olympic buildings are set to be opened to the public later this year or early next year under plans drawn up by the Beijing Tourism Administration.

Tourism bosses want to show off Beijing's Olympic preparations to the world so have come up with the idea of opening the National Stadium, known as the 'Bird's Nest' and the National Swimming Center, nicknamed the 'Water Cube', to tourists.

The stadium and swimming center are unlikely to be completed before the end of next year but visitors will be given the chance to tour the construction sites and see how the buildings have developed.

The tourist administration will have to apply to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Games before the scheme can be rubber-stamped.

Travel agents have said they think the two Olympic sites will become tourist hot-spots if the plans are given the green light.

House prices soar by over 18%

By Chu Meng

House prices in Beijing surged by a record breaking 18.1 percent in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year, according to the Beijing Statistics Bureau.

Over six million square meters of housing was built in the same period, up 40.4 percent from a year ago. Beijing developers have also developed over one and a half million square meters of land in the first five months of the year, an increase of 96.4 percent on the same period last year.

Investors poured close to 50 billion yuan into the city's property market between January and May, up 18.1 percent compared with the same period last year. Just over 25 billion yuan was used to build houses, an increase of 33 percent from the previous year.

Central government has launched a string of new policies in the first half of this year to cool the overheated real estate market. They include a 0.27 percent increase in the benchmark-lending rate to curb a surge in fixed asset lending and a rise in the threshold for property development loans.

Text message voting for top cops

Jiang Xubo

A scheme to identify model law enforcement officials by text message voting hit controversy this week.

Authorities in Yongzhou, a city in south China's Hunan Province, launched a search in March to identify the year's 10 best judges and policemen in the city.

Organizers introduced methods which allowed people to

vote for candidates by sending text messages or calling designated hotlines. Voting runs from the end of April until June 28. The 10 candidates out of a total of 32 who win the most votes will be awarded the honor.

"This method avoids decisions being made away from the public eye, and lets people have the final say on this issue," Tang Guoyu, a member of the panel in charge of

the activity, claimed.

The 32 candidates had attracted a total of some 2,000,000 votes by June 16.

But not every one is happy with the methodology used.

"Text message voting is for TV talent contests. It has spoiled the search for model law officials," said Wang Zhigang, a retired local law officer.

Local telecommunication service providers charge one yuan

(US\$0.12) for each text message and one yuan per minute to call to vote. The organizers denied this was a trick aimed at making a profit.

"Telecom companies will take most of the money. Also, we organizers have to cover the cost of running this activity. It is unlikely we will make any profit from it, but we have to make it pay for itself, as there is no government funding," said Tang.

Tickets now available for Qinghai-Tibet Railway

By Qiu Jiaoning

Tickets for the first batch of trains on the Qinghai-Tibet railway, the world's highest railway that begins operation on Saturday, can now be bought at train stations in Beijing, Xining and Chengdu, according to an announcement by China's Ministry of Railways.

The ministry has set the timetables and ticket prices for trains to Lhasa in Tibet from Beijing, Chengdu and Xining, Chongqing and Lanzhou. Three types of train tickets are available at differing prices.

Tickets for a hard seat from Beijing to Lhasa, a journey of more than 4,000 kilometers, is 389 yuan, while a ticket for a hard sleeper will cost 813 yuan, and the price for a shared compartment or soft sleeper is 1,262 yuan. The train (T27/8) will depart from Beijing's West Railway Station at 21:30 and arrive in Lhasa in Tibet at 20:58 on the third day.

For the trip between Chongqing and Lhasa, a hard seat ticket

for the 3,654-kilometer journey is 355 yuan; the price for a hard sleeper is 754 yuan; a soft sleeper will cost 1,168 yuan.

For the 3,360-kilometer trip between Chengdu and Lhasa, the hard seat price is 331 yuan, the hard sleeper price is 712 yuan, and the cost of a soft sleeper is 1,104 yuan.

Ticket prices from Lanzhou in northwest China to Lhasa, a trip of 2,188 kilometers, are: hard seat 242 yuan; hard sleeper 552 yuan; and soft sleeper price 854 yuan.

The world's highest railway extends 1,956 kilometers from Xi'ning to Lhasa from Xi'ning to Lhasa, and the hard seat price is 226 yuan, the hard sleeper price is 523 yuan, and the soft sleeper price is 810 yuan.

Some 960 kilometers of track are located 4,000 meters above sea level and the highest point is 5,072 meters, at least 200 meters higher than the Peruvian railway in the Andes, which was formerly the world's highest altitude railway.



Passengers buying tickets for Beijing-Lhasa at the Beijing West Railway Station June 28, the first day tickets went on sale.

Photo by Flower Geng

Consumers slam Dell for mislabeled CPUs

By Chen Shasha

Computer consumers have begun an Internet campaign against Dell Computers for what they are claiming is mislabeling of the CPU in their DELL Inspiron 640M notebook computers.

More than 100 consumers signed a petition on www.benyouthui.com, in protest on June 24.

The controversy began when one consumer, Li Xiang, received his DELL Inspiron 640M notebook computer on June 24 after ordering it from the Dell online center on June 19. Li said that when he examined it he discovered the type of CPU was a T2300E, not the T2300 listed on the order form.

"T2300E is the simplified type of T2300, while is almost US\$40 cheaper and has fewer functions," said Li.

He then contacted Dell customer care center (CCC) to exchange it, but claims they said the T2300 CPU was out of stock for a month and they could not exchange it. Li said he felt angry and asked the local sales deputy for a reply.

According to Li, the deputy admitted that the CPU did not match the order form, but that she didn't know the T2300 was out of stock. Li called Dell customer care center again for compensation, and was asked to wait for a reply.

He said that after he received no feedback he called Dell CCC a third time. "They said they could give me some gift, like mouse as compensation, or I could wait for the goods to be returned."

Li Xiang advised people to check their recently purchased Dell notebook computers. Many consumers in Beijing, Shanghai, Anhui, and Liaoning claimed their CPU was a T2300E. Consumers called the Dell CCC, but many claim they were asked to wait for a reply.

Dell China spokesperson Ms Zhang argued that there is no difference between the T2300E and T2300 in terms of capability. She said the confusion over the order form was because Intel, the CPU production company, said the 'E' following the T2300 is optional, not necessary. She admitted no explanation was made before consumers bought the product, but refused to reveal how the issue would be dealt with.

Intel customer service center argued the T2300E is the lower version of T2300, and the latter is designed especially for notebook computers, and that the T2300E lacks 'Virtualization Technology'.

According to the survey by the benyouthui online voting box, 27 percent of netizens want Dell to make an official public apology, 21 percent asked for double the normal compensation allotted under Chinese consumer law, only 2 percent approved of accepting Dell's small gifts for compensation, and 1 percent agreed to have the computers returned.

Brief News

Drug traffickers executed

The Supreme People's Court revealed three major drug trafficking cases this week and announced that five drug traffickers involved have been executed.

ABC loans against regulations

The Agricultural Bank of China (ABC) offered a total of over 27 billion yuan (US\$3 billion) in loans against regulations in 2004, according to a report issued this week by the National Audit Office.

Budgetary funds misappropriated

Forty-eight central government departments misappropriated 5.5 billion yuan (US\$ 688 billion) from the central budget last year, according to Li Jinhua, the

country's top auditor from the National Audit Office.

Record high revenue

The country's fiscal revenue soared almost 20 percent last year to hit a record 3.16 trillion yuan (US\$395 billion), according to Jin Renqing, the Finance Minister.

420m mobile users

The country's mobile phone subscribers reached more than 420 million at the end of May, according to the Ministry of Information Industry.

More investment in farming

The country's central treasury allocated some 300 billion yuan (US \$37 billion) to facilitate farming and rural development and raise farmers' income last year, up over 13 percent from 2004, according to Finance Minister Jin Renqing.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Hospital doctors pimping patients for profit

By Chu Meng

A whistle blower doctor in Nanjing has revealed that doctors in the city's A-level state-owned hospitals are pimping out patients to other hospitals for profit.

Zhu Hua, a doctor from one of the hospitals in Nanjing in eastern China's Jiangsu Province, revealed the scandal in his personal weblog. The log read: "The doctors normally sold the patients from their own hospital to another. The targeted hospital will then pay those doctors, or rather, 'patient dealers', from several hundred to several thousand yuan, under the guise of transfer charges for each patient they received."

In other words, these 'patient dealers' are employed doctors in some bigger hospitals. But they take advantage of limited resources and treat the patients like they are prostitutes. Smaller hospitals struggling to increase

patient numbers have to seek cooperation from doctors in those hospitals.

He said it was a very common trade among hospitals. It could happen between hospitals in the same level or from the higher ones to lower ones. It could also happen between hospitals within Nanjing, or between the surrounding cities. "Doctors often have their long-term receivers. And hospitals normally only accept patients from people they are familiar with."

When a journalist called one of these hospitals and pretended to be a doctor in a city next to Nanjing, asking whether they could transfer a patient to them, a surgeon from the organ transplant department said "yes." When asked whether there was bonus, and how much, he said "2,000 yuan on average. But you have to talk with the head of the hospital in person, and bring your doctor's certificate."

China should remain 'kingdom of bicycles'

Shanghai, June 26 (PTI) – A senior Chinese minister has criticized the Beijing city administration for making it harder for cyclists to get around, saying the country should retain its title as the 'kingdom of bicycles' at all costs.

China's Vice Minister of Construction, Qiu Baoxing, lashed out at city authorities yesterday at the first International Conference on China's City Planning and Development, organized by his ministry in Beijing.

Qiu noted that the number of motor vehicles on China's roads rose 20 times between 1978 and 2004 and their numbers could increase five-fold again by 2020.

In 2004 there were 27 million motor vehicles in the country and that number could reach 130 million in 15 years, he said.

The explosive growth of motor vehicles has caused

severe traffic jams in major Chinese cities and is posing a grave challenge to the country's energy security and urban development, he said.

Qiu said some Chinese cities are squeezing bicycle lanes in order to make more room for cars, while some Western cities are beginning to build more paths for the cycle riders, Xinhua news agency reported.

The Ministry of Construction is firmly opposed to the elimination of bicycle lanes and has ordered cities to restore them, he said.

The large army of bicycles on the streets of Chinese cities amazed the West when China first opened to the outside world in early 1980s.

It is estimated that there were 500 million cyclists during that time.

The number of cyclists has dropped as rapidly as private car ownership has expanded.



Interview with the reporter:

It is an interesting topic. We know Chinese used to be sensitive about being called 'the country of bicycles'. Now you are more conscious of the environment after so many years of automobile development.

In India, we have no lanes for bicycles. Instead, we have many motorcycles and scooters, which run together with the automobiles and cause much, much more serious traffic jams. So, we have a much bigger headache than you Chinese have.

In the traffic management and environment related aspects, India has more to learn from China.

I have an electric bicycle. I'll introduce the electric bicycle back to India.

— Anil Joseph, PTI, Beijing



Pilots from Taiwan are finding positions on the mainland. As China is purchasing more planes and more private airlines are emerging, pilots are in short supply.

Xinhua Photo

Foreign pilots wanted in China

Beijing, June 27 (Reuters) – China's airlines are opening up their cockpits to foreigners in a bid to solve a serious pilot shortage, state media report.

China's booming commercial aviation industry is taking off faster than the country can train pilots, threatening future growth and hard-won advances in air safety.

The number of passenger planes in service in China was expected to double to 1,600 in the next five years, the *China Daily* quoted an aviation official as saying.

Every 100 new planes would require 1,000 extra pilots, China's industry regulator said, while official media estimate that Chinese flying schools can only graduate 600 pilots a year.

One pioneering foreigner, Philippe Burtonboy, a pilot with United Eagle Airlines, one of the country's four private airlines, had become famous, the paper said.

"The 50-year-old Belgian is a celebrity in Chengdu, even though he has been here for just four months, as he is the first foreign captain to pilot a plane in southwest China," the paper said.

Last month, China Eastern Airlines announced 16 Indians had completed professional training as air stewardesses, the first group of Indian cabin staff ever hired by a Chinese airline.

'Beijing not comfortable for living, but right for shopping'



Beijing, June 25 (Hindustan Times) – Beijing is no longer a good place to live well for locals, though it has convenient access to shopping facilities, a local report said.

According to the report, Beijing, a sprawling city of over 15 million people, only scores 61.91

in the level of comfort and 63.8 in overall evaluation, just over the passing line.

"The level of comfort is very important for living space, including natural and human environment, but the public has low recognition with the index," a

research fellow with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhang Wenzhong said.

Beijingers have higher assessment on the city's shopping facilities and neighborhood relations, both scoring over 70.

Based on over 7,600 questionnaires completed across the city, the survey is designed to gather public opinion on Beijing's safety, healthiness, level of comfort and transportation convenience.

Beijing's notorious traffic and air pollution partly contributed by vehicle exhaust cause more concern among the respondents.

Over 90 percent of the interviewed believe real estate prices in Beijing are too high will rise in the next five years.

Interview with the editor:

In my mind, Beijing is a city of politics and power, rather than a place for living and shopping.

But it is understandable that Beijing is becoming a nice place for shopping as China is experiencing rapid economic growth. Huge amounts of factories are producing garments, toys, home

appliances and household goods.

As a political center, Beijing might still lag behind Shanghai and Mumbai as a commercial center. It might not be so fun, so fashionable, and not yet as fully opened. It's the same here in New Delhi. Beijing is facing serious environmental challenges.

People like us who have never been to your city can only learn what Beijing is like through the international media. As the Olympic Games is coming up, I'm sure things are getting better.

— Neena Haridas, chief editor, Lifestyle, Hindustan Times

A home for Jews in China

Harbin (*Los Angeles Times*) – Esther and Paul Agran look over Harbin's rather dowdy Xinyang Square, see the mud and the snarled traffic, then count the buildings from the corner. "One, two, three – that's it!" says Esther, 80. "That's the building where we had our wedding! It was a beautiful building. I think it rubbed off – we've been together 56 years."

A half-century after most of the Jewish community fled Harbin, the former residents are venturing back for a nostalgic look.

Now, after years of not being welcomed, they are returning to a city that is eager to see them. Harbin recently announced a US\$3.2-million renovation of its main synagogue, and is stepping up efforts to preserve other

historically significant buildings and sprucing up the Jewish cemetery, Asia's largest.

Although most people don't tend to associate Jews with China, Harbin was an enclave of relative tolerance in the first half of the 20th century, as chaos, war and revolution raged in a troubled world. Jews, mainly from Russia, came to see it as a sanctuary and a land of opportunity.

The first Jew reportedly arrived in Harbin around 1899, leading what would eventually be three waves of immigration, says Li Shuxiao, vice director of Jewish research at the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences.

The first group, in the early 20th century, came in search of opportunity after the opening of



The main synagogue in Harbin

the Russia-China railroad. The second fled the 1917 Russian Revolution. A third sought to escape a Russia-China border conflict in 1929. The peak was around 1920, when the local Jewish population reached 20,000.

Most Russian Jews came to China without money and worked hard. It paid off, and they became solidly middle-class."

Interview with the reporter:

Harbin has done very well in welcoming those nostalgic Jews back, either for investment or visits. They are recovering the old gardens, streets, synagogues and buildings. It's also very important to preserve history and culture.

I know Tianjin and Shanghai had many Jews too in the 1930s and 40s. Shanghai is doing even better. They have built a museum to bring together memories of that history.

As China's economy is prospering, more foreigners are coming for better living.

And they are creating new ex-pat communities, like the South Korean community in Wangjing. I appreciate China's generosity in welcoming them.

Some do complain that obtaining permits to work and live here is very difficult because of the time-consuming and bureaucratic procedures. But considering what you have to deal with for the same thing in the US, China is still an open society to foreigners.

— Mark Magnier, Los Angeles Times, Beijing

China, Australia hail new gas terminal for future trade

Shenzhen, June 28 (AFP) – Australian Prime Minister John Howard and his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao oversaw the opening of a terminal in the southern province of Guangdong that will take deliveries of liquefied natural gas from Australia for the next 25 years.

The contract, signed in 2002, involves an annual delivery of around 3.3 million tons of LNG

and is worth A\$25 billion (US\$18 billion), making it Australia's largest single export deal.

"In every sense this is a symbol of what can be achieved in the future," Howard said at the opening ceremony.

Wen said the opening of the terminal "symbolizes the beginning of a long-term, stable demand and supply relationship between the two countries."

Trade between the two nations has skyrocketed in recent years. Last year alone, Australian exports to China soared 46 percent to A\$16 billion (US\$12 billion) while imports rose 19 percent to A\$21 billion.

China is now Australia's second largest trading partner after Japan.

The two nations are also currently in negotiations over a free

trade deal, which is the first for China with a developed nation.

Further highlighting their close relationship, the two signed a deal during Wen's visit to Australia in April clearing the way for the sale of Australian uranium to China for its nuclear power industry.

Australia holds about 40 percent of the world's uranium reserves.

Rabobank, IFC enters rural bank

Beijing, June 29 (XFN-ASIA) – Dutch banking group Rabobank and the International Finance Corp (IFC), the investment arm of the World Bank, have signed a stake purchase agreement with United Rural Cooperative Bank, according to a statement from the Chinese lender.

The United Rural Cooperative Bank, located in China's eastern province of Zhejiang, said the stake sale was approved at a shareholders meeting on June 23.

In May, local media reported that Rabobank and IFC had agreed to pay 100 million yuan for a combined stake of 14.9 percent, with Rabobank to hold a 10 percent stake and IFC to hold 4.9 percent.

At the end of 2005, United Rural Cooperative Bank's total assets stood at 24.86 billion yuan.

The purchase indicates that international financial institutions are heading down to China's rural market.

China will grant national treatment to all foreign financial institutions from the very beginning of 2007.

Badminton champions in FedEx ad

By Qiu Jiaoning

FedEx, official sponsor of the Chinese national badminton team from 2006 to 2008, will launch new TV commercial featuring four Chinese badminton champions in Beijing on Wednesday.

Li Yongbo, head coach of China's national badminton team, together with Olympic badminton champion Zhang Ning, world champion Lin Dan, Thomas Cup champion Bao Chunlai, Uber Cup champion Xie Xingfang, are the stars of the FedEx commercial.

Eddy Chan, President of FedEx China said, "Our cooperation will give us an opportunity to introduce FedEx's sports marketing experience to China, further promote badminton and the Olympic Games in China."

FedEx has 23 flights to China every week and will add three more next March. FedEx is providing services to over 200 Chinese cities since it entered the market in 1984.



Summer sale starts

People walk past a shop in Paris displaying banners advertising 'Sales' as summer sales start in France, Wednesday June 28, 2006.

Xinhua Photo

Lenovo sets up Asia-Pacific flagship store in Taipei 101

Taipei, June 29 (digitimes.com) – Lenovo Taiwan today moved its head office into Taipei 101, and also opened the PC vendor's Asia-Pacific flagship store in the world's tallest building.

Lenovo Taiwan General Manager Huang Wei-teh said the opening of the group's largest flagship store in Asia outside of the Chinese mainland symbolizes its brand value as the company tries to give consumers a new impression of Lenovo products.



Photo provided by Lenovo Taipei

Ravi Marwaha, Lenovo vice president for global operations and chief executive officer for Asia, cut the ribbon for the Taipei store.

"This is also an indication

that Lenovo is determined to increase its presence in Taiwan and work harder to expand its market here," Marwaha said.

Lenovo Taiwan was established in August last year, three months after the Chinese mainland's computer giant took over IBM's personal computer arm.

Lenovo Taiwan was set up in August 2005, three months after its China-based parent company took over of IBM's PC department in May 2005. Lenovo Taiwan had been using IBM's office in Taipei until today.

China Life buys stakes of Citic Securities

Beijing, June 29 (Bloomberg) – China Life Insurance Co. and its parent paid 4.65 billion yuan (US\$581 million) for a stake in Citic Securities Co., the largest brokerage acquisition by a Chinese insurer as the government relaxes investment barriers.

Beijing-based China Life bought 350 million new shares for 9.29 yuan each in the nation's biggest publicly traded broker-

age, Citic Securities said in a statement to Shanghai stock exchange.

Including shares they already owned, the insurance group now holds a combined 17.2 percent.

China is ending the separation between its insurance, banking and brokerage industries as competition with foreign financial groups such as HSBC Holdings Plc grows.

The acquisition will help China Life strengthen its ability to invest premiums while giving Citic a partner with 559 billion yuan of assets.

China Life, the nation's biggest insurer, and the Beijing-based Citic also signed a cooperation agreement, the insurer said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange, without giving details.

Bank of China draws bids in domestic IPO

Beijing, June 28 (Bloomberg) – Bank of China attracted US\$84.6 billion of bids for the nation's biggest domestic public offering, 33 times the stock on offer.

Private investors accounted for 80 percent of the orders for stock in China's second-biggest bank, which sought 20 billion yuan (US\$2.5 billion) selling local-currency shares.

China Eastern purchases 30 Airbuses

Shanghai, June 27 (AFP) – China Eastern Airlines, one of China's three largest carriers, said it will buy 30 Airbus A320 aircraft for 13.9 billion yuan (US\$1.73 billion).

Earlier this month, Air China, the flag carrier, agreed to buy 24 Airbus A320 aircraft for US\$1.74 billion.

Henderson to buy land

Hong Kong, June 27 (Bloomberg) – Henderson Land Development Co., Hong Kong's third-largest property developer, plans to spend HK\$30 billion (US\$3.86 billion) buying land on the mainland to build more affordable homes promoted by the government.

The company has invested HK\$20 billion in mostly commercial developments in China in the past decade.

New Oriental seeks IPO

Shanghai, June 28 (Reuters) – China's New Oriental Education & Technology Group, a provider of foreign language instruction, is preparing for a stock listing on the New York Stock Exchange worth at least US\$100 million.

New Oriental has hired Goldman Sachs and Credit Suisse to work on the initial public offering, sources said, although one added that no timetable had been set.

Intel Capital to invest more

Beijing, June 27 (XFN-ASIA) – Intel Corp's venture-capital arm, Intel Capital, said it will fund four more Chinese companies, bringing the number of investments made through its US\$200 million China Technology Fund to 12.

Intel Capital plans to invest in a semiconductor-design company called Montage Technology Co., two software developers called Star Softcomm Pte Ltd and Winking Entertainment Ltd, and a company called Campus Media Inc, which specializes in marketing on university campuses.

Canadian PM unveils redress for head tax on Chinese

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has promised 'symbolic payments' to Chinese immigrants who paid a head tax to Canada between 1885 and 1923.

Widows of men who paid the head tax are also covered, Harper told the House of Commons on Thursday.

He also offered a formal apology for the fact that the tax was imposed, saying "the government of Canada recognizes the stigma and exclusion" the tax represented.

Only about 30 immigrants who paid the tax and several hundred widows of payers are still alive.

An estimated 80,000 Chinese immigrants paid the tax, which was intended to deter Chinese immigration after Chinese workers helped build the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885.

The tax started at CA\$50 per person in 1885 and rose to CA\$500 per person in 1903, equal to as much as two years' salary.

After it was withdrawn in 1923, the head tax was replaced by the Exclusion Act, which barred Chinese immigrants from the country altogether until 1947.

— CBC News

Comments:

They came for the job, then decide to stay, and were asked to pay a tax.

Same thing happens today, so what's the big deal?

They could have stayed in China and worked there.

They could have decided to go back after the job was done.

I am a Canadian and work in the States. I wish it was so simple as to pay a tax to become a citizen. Lots more hoops and still have to spend lots of money.

Is the situation really different for a computer contractor today?

— Rroom101

Just feel-good atonement for the deluded guilt ridden

— no such reality

As a Canadian I think that apology was a long time coming and a

step in the right direction. Canada is built on multiculturalism, and it's not too late to apologize for the wrongdoings of the past.

— enamel orchid

The big deal is that the head tax policy is solely based on race.

If two railroad workers apply for immigration after the job is done, and assume they are both qualified and get their application approved, then the Chinese worker needs to pay the head tax while the non-Chinese doesn't need to.

That's what it means.

— Jameszhou2001

Can't we get over this sensitivity nonsense????

Nobody alive then is alive now.

— little eichmann jr

Three cheers for Canada.

— Jeffrey cody

Enough with the retro apologies. I apologize only for what I personally have done, not what my ancestors did. I am only accountable for my actions and I'm tired of the government apologizing in my name. Yes, history is full of injustices. It stinks, but there it is. All through history somebody has been on the receiving end of a raw deal. If we are all so determined to make apologies, can we just make one big collective 'Gee, we're sorry for it all' and get on with life? Learn from the mistakes, but for heaven's sake, enough already!

— Twigskoolaidmom

Nobody forced them to pay a dime. They chose to pay it. I'm just not seeing the crime here. An apology from Canadians who had nothing to do with the head tax should be sufficient. To dump 22 million on a monument or some special program is an ignorant gesture that is slanted.

— Stock Aide

I don't know who made Harper do it. It is illogical for him to make this 'apology'.

If I had cheated someone I might apologize, but if my grandpa did something wrong, it's nothing to do with me.

— denmcdoe



Ralph Lung Kee Lee, 106, the oldest living person who paid the head tax, carries a symbolic 'last spike' used in the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway as he arrives in Ottawa on Wednesday.

(CP Photo)

Weekly topics

Newsweek (USA)

1. Beef, BBQ and Elvis for Japan's PM.
2. Debunking the myth of Al Qaeda
3. Tony Blair takes another blow
4. Women get first national vote
5. US agenda endangers world

New York Times (USA)

1. 'Breathtaking' waste and fraud in Hurricane aid
2. Bush says report on bank data was disgraceful
3. Patriotism and press
4. A well-known political blogger is hired by the Clinton campaign
5. Supreme Court overturns Texas political map

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

1. Wendt talks to lawyers over her future at Nine
2. Drunk surgeon naked on letterbox
3. Pregnant Britney on Harper's cover
4. Email ends astronaut's mission
5. Now agents take the stage as Socceroos seek to cash in

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Police cut naked boat ride short
2. Most married people stick with first spouse: StatsCan
3. Flowers found in newly discovered pharaonic tomb
4. Signs you're about to be fired
5. Strict limits on trans-fat content urged

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Mother fights terrorists from her living room
2. Army wives get phone death threats from Iraq
3. The mine that has 'killed 17 British troops'
4. 'Two-noses' need a home
5. Boys with older brothers most likely to be gay

World's most expensive cities

By Patrick Cooper (USA Today)

Tokyo is no longer the world's most expensive city, slipping two spots in an annual survey and allowing Moscow and Seoul to jump ahead. "The survey by Mercer Human Resource Consulting ranked 144 cities around the world, measuring the comparative cost of more than 200 items such as housing, transportation and food," the Associated Press says.

For more details, Mercer's website offers a highlights page ('Asuncion, Paraguay remains the least expensive city globally').

Comments:

I worked and lived in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Toronto and New York City.

A coffee in Shanghai is CNY 28, about CA\$4, while in Toronto, it is a dollar twenty five.

In Toronto, CA\$100 gives me a decent dinner without wine, but in Hong Kong and Shanghai, I can eat like a king.

In Toronto, I live in a 3,000 sq ft house, costing me half a million, but in Hong Kong, that amount gives me 500 sq ft, and in Manhattan, a place not much bigger than my bathroom.

Life is a matter of choice, not statistical science of average and standard deviation.

— Tat Yu

A simple method for calculating COL is to compare the cost of purchasing a Big Mac in each country (the Big Mac Index). Here's a fictional example: a Big Mac costs US\$5 in New York and 15 Singapore dollars in Singapore. Based on an exchange rate of 1.5 SGD/USD, you can say that the burger costs US\$10 in Singapore. This would

suggest that the COL in Singapore is twice as high as in NY.

— Bill in Singapore

I live in an apartment the size of an American closet and pay over US\$2,000 a month....what can I get for US\$2,000 a month in Moscow....I can buy the whole damn city....

— Tokyo Living

The list is crazy, I lived in China, not one city there costs anywhere near what I pay here in little Melbourne Florida. I love the 12 cent noodle breakfast, try to get that at McDonald's!

— Paul

No way is Istanbul, in a country where the average annual wage is less than US\$4K more expensive than Paris. Similarly, Ho Chi Minh City only just recently traded in their bicycles for scooters and you can eat great

for US\$4, so no way is HCMC more expensive than Chicago.

— CD

There is no way that Los Angeles can be more expensive than San Francisco. Has anyone tried to find housing in San Francisco? Los Angeles, with the large port and spread out communities, is much cheaper to live in. I have lived in both and there is no comparison in cost.

— Gary

Haislip

I was in Kiev for nearly a month last year. I rented a nice 3 bedroom apartment for US\$25 a day. Food, transportation and just about everything else was incredibly inexpensive. Somehow Kiev made number 21 here, which makes me also question any of the former Soviet countries being in the top.

— Kiev Traveller

I've been to (and lived in) many of these places, and I agree with Tokyo, Hong Kong, London, Osaka, Paris, etc. But Beijing? Shanghai? Shenzhen? Hanoi? Ho Chi Minh??? I beg to differ. These cities are so cheap to live in when it comes to rent, food, transportation, etc....Just how do they come up with these kind of results? It seems a bit skewed to me, and quite far from the reality...

— halfbreed88

What? No Crawford, TX?? Can't think of another city that has cost the world as much...

— Flyboy

For years Moscow was one of the least expensive cities — now, the most. Please tell me I'm in a 'TIME WARP'.

— Roby the expatriate

(By Jiang Xubo)

Australian authors and the voices in their heads

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Australian authors Geraldine Brooks and Melina Marchetta were in Bookworm on Wednesday to meet their readers.

Geraldine Brooks is the author of *March*, the winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction; Melina Marchetta is the author of *Looking for Alibrandi*.

During the discussion, the two Australian writers both mentioned the 'voice' they heard when creating a character. "I always wonder where the voice comes from, who he/she is, what the voice is talking about, which leads me to the plot," said Brooks. Marchetta, however, admitted that she was often hesitant about whether it was the right voice to follow.

Most of the readers paid more attention to Brooks' *Nine Parts of Desire*, the collection of her reports written for the *Wall Street Journal* about the social life of women in the Middle East, instead



Geraldine Brooks with a reader in Bookworm Photo by Rain Tian

of the Pulitzer-winning novel. After reading a paragraph selected from chapters about an Islamic woman who admitted having sex with the devil before she died, Brooks smiled and said that it was a woman's form of revenge to leave something to harass a man through his life. Then there was a series of discussions about wom-

en's power between the readers and the two writers.

Brooks' China tour was organized by the Department of Communications and Arts of the Australian government. The writer gave lectures at Shanghai earlier this week. Brooks came to Beijing with the Chinese version of her *Year of Wonders*, which



was published in 2001 and has been translated into seventeen languages. A Chinese translation of *March* will be available in three to four months.

Brooks, 51, grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney, and after being educated by the nuns of her convent secondary school she attended Sydney University and worked as a reporter for the city's major newspaper, *The Sydney Morning Herald*. She completed a master's degree in journalism at Columbia University in New York City in 1983, and worked for the *Wall Street Journal*, where she covered crises in the Middle East, Africa and the Balkans.

Holocaust exhibition comes to Beijing

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Embassy of Israel is holding a ten-day photo exhibition in Beijing World Art Museum until July 7, presenting the hardest time in the history of the Jewish people during the World War II from two perspectives.

The exhibition 'Human and Inhuman', is split into two parts: the extermination of Jews at the Auschwitz concentration camp by the German Nazis, as well with the haven found by Jews in Shanghai during World War II.

The first part 'Auschwitz, the Depth of the Abyss' features material from Israel's Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority.

The photos of the second part 'Jews in Shanghai' show how the Jewish refugees in Shanghai avoided the holocaust and shared the comforts and hardships with the ordinary Chinese people.

Expats search for local perspectives on hutong

By Chen Shasha

Carrie Clyne, sitting in the apartment she rented, with a lot photos taken by *hutong* residents in her hand, carefully listened to the stories collected by the local investigators on June 25. The meeting is one of the most important sections of the Hutong to Highrise project, with foreign photographers and Chinese investigators in attendance.

"I need the help of the investigators," said Carrie, the initiator of the *hutong* to Highrise project from this March. Carrie has lived in China for two years. She loves the cultural diversity of China and has traveled extensively. Gradually, she found that the Photovoice Method is a good way to record the strange world she is interested in. This March, the *Hutong* to Highrise project started, with some of her friends Alexandra Pribilovics, a freelancer, Julie Hackenbrach, a photographer and Laurie Stahle, a writer.

"We hope to learn more about



Carrie with children in a hutong Photo by Ted Utoft

hutong dwellers and see the world through their eyes by giving them cameras and the means to document what is important to them," said Carrie. However, many residents feared they had some political agenda since they are foreigners, had refused some foreigners who had already come to the *hutong* to take pictures. Carrie and her friends tried to explain that they would leave the cameras and would not disturb the residents' lives, but because of the language barrier, communication seems a little difficult.

Weeks ago, some youngsters of Beijing joined the project, who acted as investigators. Each of them took responsibility for a certain

area and through questionnaires and conversation, around ten families in the Hutong will be chosen to get the cameras and document their own lives and those of their neighbors. These *Hutong* residents were asked to take photos of whatever they like in their daily life, as natural as possible. However, the course of selection was hard.

Wang Zhanglong, one of the investigators, interviewed nearly 40 families and finally chose a suitable one near Qian Men. The family had lived there over 70 years, with four generations in the same courtyard. Years ago, their grandchildren moved to high rise and seldom came back to Hutong because of their busy lives.

Carrie found the family was the one she wanted. "It is a typical traditional Chinese family with three or four generation living together and there are some conflicts between the new generation living in apartments and the old generation who didn't want to move out of the Hutong."

Interns come to 'spiritual home'

By Xue Meng

Thirteen young Americans arrived in Beijing this Monday looking forward to spending an exciting summer in Beijing. Most of these students are American-Chinese and still at high school or university. They are here to take part in the 'Internship in China' program organized by the Hong Qiao International Culture Exchange (HQI). In the following six weeks, they are bound to have a wonderful summer in China.

"This is the second time we have organized the 'Internship in China'

program," said Li Feng, General Manager of the HQI. "Many overseas Chinese want their children to get to know China better. Participating in an internship program like this in China will be very beneficial for them."

According to Li, these students feel proud to have been accepted on this program because they had to undergo a long interview process. Not only did they need to have good marks at school, but also they had to show that they were able to live independently. Following their arrival

in China, they will be trained in Beijing for a week, where they will take part in many activities, including visiting *The People's Daily* newspaper, filming at a television center, and taking part in team-building exercises. From July 3, they will intern in different companies for five weeks in Beijing and Shanghai.

"As an overseas Chinese in America, I really want to get to know China," said Ming Ngar Mindy Cheung, "Telling the world about China is my biggest dream." Cheung hopes to accumulate some work

experience through the program and make some overseas friends at the same time.

The HQI is a US-based non-profit organization concentrating on cultural communication between China and America. In 2005, it began the 'Internship in China' program. "I think that taking part in this activity will benefit students in at least three respects," said Li. "They will gain some work experience in China, learn the language and about Chinese culture and also be able to make the most of their own connections."

Blind Japanese violinist completes concerts in Beijing

By Han Manman

Narimichi Kawabata, one of the most acclaimed violin soloists around the world, finished his four-day visit to Beijing yesterday. It is also the first time he has come to China, and all proceeds went to a disabled charity in Beijing.

There was a packed audience for his last concert, accompanied by pianist Anthony Hewitt at Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong. Every time he finished a melody there was tremendous applause. After his performance, a short donation ceremony was held. The 35,000 yuan raised was given to Ma Dajun, the vice chairman of Beijing Disabled People's Committee at the ceremony. Kawabata said the money would be used to purchase music equipment for Beijing's disabled art troupe.

One of the most requested soloists in Japan and a regular performer at top-class venues such as Suntory Hall, Kawabata devotes a significant amount of his time to charity, potentially driven by his childhood experience of a medical accident that left him blind.

"I have lived in London for the past 12 years. I had to learn the violin through English, which was a hard experience for me."

Recalling his early childhood, Kawabata said, "The world for me is only a shadow." Kawabata said he chose the violin "Because the violin is an instrument I could stay at home to practice."

Narimichi Kawabata made his sensational debut as a violinist after graduating first on the list at the Royal Academy of Music and was conferred with Special Artist Status, only the second person ever to receive the award in the academy's long history of nearly 200 years. In 2004, his story has been selected for use in Japanese high school textbooks. He is currently based in the UK performing as an international soloist across the world.



Narimichi Kawabata Photo by Han Manman

Huang loses his Yidali Mian

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Chinese sport media has been ringing with the name Huang Jianxiang this week. The popular Chinese soccer commentator of state-run CCTV Sport Channel lost control when Italy won a dubious last minute penalty against soccer minnows Australia.

Huang kept his objectivity through the game till the moment Fabio Grosso went down in a challenge and won a last-minute penalty for the Italians.

"Penalty! Penalty! Penalty!" he suddenly screamed. "Grosso's

done it, Grosso's done it!"

"The great Italian left back! He succeeded in the glorious traditions of Italy! Facchetti, Cabrini and Maldini, their souls are infused in him at this moment!"

"Grosso represents the long history and traditions of Italian soccer, he's not fighting alone at this moment! He's not alone!"

"Goooooal! Game over! Italy win! Beat the Australians!" he shouted, his voice now breaking. "They do not fall in front of Hidink again! Italy the great! Left back the great! Happy birthday to Maldini! Forza Italia!"

"The victory belongs to Italy, to Grosso, to Cannavaro, to Zambrotta, to Buffon, to Maldini, to everyone who loves Italian soccer!"

Huang's comments, in the early hours of the morning, stunned millions watching TV in China. Fans and supporters of the Italian team cheered for his passion and sincerity, while Australia's side roared against his acrid words towards their team. All online video records of Huang's comments were blocked immediately and the next day's re-broadcast of the game was commented

on by a different commentator. Volcanic debates soon spread across the internet. By 10:42pm on Tuesday, there were already 159,582 people showing their support for Huang, while 104,042 criticized him and 44,893 admitted that some of his words were not proper, according to www.sina.com.cn.

"A good commentator should be a real soccer fan first!" (Sportlitttle -sina webbie).

"The World Cup field is not Huang's living room. Objectivity should always be the first for a professional commentator!" (Zhang

Yue -journalist)

"Huang must have chipped in on the Italians, guess how much he bet?" (Andy156256- webbie)

"Chinese TV audiences... are not often served up such South American-style passion and Huang's bias has provoked a storm of controversy in the media." (Reuters)

Huang, who had to send a formal apology from Germany to the audience and fans back home, is now facing a penalty from his CCTV bosses. It's unlikely he'll be cheering this particular strike.



Come on England!

Fans cheer up team against Ecuador June 26.

Photo by Happy Hu

Dying to watch the match? You just might be

By Xue Meng

Although China is not competing in the World Cup, Chinese football fans are enjoying the games with the same fervor as their counterparts in other countries. So far, six Chinese fans have died in incidents linked to watching the football.

A 43-year-old woman, Ms Wei, in Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province, only watched the first game everyday since she has a history of high blood pressure. On the evening of June 13, she watched the match

between South Korea and Togo. When South Korea scored two goals at the last minute of the match and won the game, Ms Wei got very excited and jumped up to celebrate South Korea's victory. After the game, Ms Wei took a shower and went to bed to rest. When her husband found her, she was lying on the bed, eyes closed with white foam oozing from her nose and mouth. He immediately made the emergency call, but it was already too late.

Incidents like these are not

rare, and have been documented in previous World Cups. A study in 1998 found the number of heart attacks increased by 25 percent on the day and in the two days after England lost to Argentina in a penalty shoot out.

Experts pointed out that the elderly and people with high blood pressure and heart disease are recommended to watch games with their families or friends and not stay up too late. Families and friends are also advised to pay close attention to patients' emotional state.



US Embassy awards American companies

By Jackie Zhang

The research-based pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) China, and the package delivery company United Parcel Service (UPS) China were awarded the Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence at the US Embassy Beijing Tuesday.

Clark T. Randt, Jr., the United States ambassador to

China awarded the certificates to the representatives of the two companies. "It is the seventh year of the awards. And the two companies are worthy," said Mr. Randt.

MSD China got the award for its contribution and collaboration with the Chinese government, especially the Ministry of Health, for preventing HIV and AIDS. And UPS China is awarded

for its achievements with its professional package delivery business and its awareness of the company's social responsibility by holding social charity events.

The Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence was established by the State Department of the United States in 1999. It emphasizes the important role US business plays in advancing best practices, good

corporate governance, and democratic values overseas. Last year, a record number of 60 companies were nominated by US ambassadors around the world. The Department of State is committed to working with American business to further these exemplary practices worldwide and to recognize the contribution business makes to improving life at home and abroad.

Arab Arts Festival a feast of food and dancing

By Chu Meng

As part of the Arab Arts Festival that runs this week until July 13th, the Inanna dance troupe will be performing an array of exotic dances from the Arab world in the Beijing Exhibition Theater. There will also be an exhibition of Arabic cookery and art at the Capital Museum.

The events are mainly concentrated in Beijing, with Nanjing serving as a secondary host city. The festival aims to promote cultural exchange between China and the 22 participating member countries of the Arab League.

In the song and dancing shows, you can enjoy classic belly dances, performed by

exotic Arabian girls in veils. The cookery exhibition then will provide you a panorama of the history and the prosperity of the Arabian food. You can learn from it that their nomadic Bedouin influence is broadened by other cuisines from the Arab world, notably from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt, resulting in a highly diverse food and drink culture.

Politics and economic affairs are essential parts of the festival. Chinese Minister of Culture Sun Jiazheng, with ministerial representatives from the Arab League will hold a series of conferences in the Great Hall of the People.



Arabian girls sure can dance

Photo by Guo Tielu

A gift for the games: The Mikos Theodorakis orchestra

By Chen Shasha

An orchestral concert by the Mikis Theodorakis Orchestra, together with Beijing Symphony Orchestra and the China National Opera House graced the Forbidden City on June 22. It was arranged by the Ministry of Tourism for Greece.

The Mikis Theodorakis Orchestra was named after the famous Greek composer, who was born in 1925. Now 81, Theodorakis was considered too frail to make the trip personally. In 1997, a group of musicians who had played with Mikis Theodorakis, and knew his work well, founded the orchestra. They performed here in China as gift for the coming Olympic Games. It is the first time that Theodorakis' works have been performed in China.

Theodorakis composed the Olympic anthem Canto Olimpico in 1992 for the Olympic games of Barcelona and the opera Lysistrath for the Olympic Games in Athens. In 2005, he was awarded the UNESCO International Music Prize for his constant dedication to peace and understanding between people.

The concert named 'Songs and Passion and Love' showcased Theodorakis' works and focused on the human spirit.

Canadian Embassy holds flash forum

By Jackie Zhang

The China-Canada International Flash Forum: Design, Technology and Education and workshops on Flash Education and Curriculum Development, Hands-on Training was held last weekend at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA). The Forum was supported by Canadian Studies Development Program (CSDP) and hosted by the Canadian Embassy in Beijing and CAFA.

Four Canadian experts on flash education were invited to attend the forum and give speeches, which provided an opportunity for educational institutions and industries from Canada and China to review the development of flash technologies in design and education and to explore the potential of flash technology in web design.

Following the forum, workshops were given by Canadian new media artists and professionals to the second and third year digital media students at the CAFA for a period of two or three weeks.

"I am glad to see that such a forum is going to be held in Beijing," commented Robert G. Wright, Canadian Ambassador, "I believe Canadian educators and industries are ready to work closely with Chinese institutions such as CAFA and others to strengthen curriculum development in new media and other related areas."

Ukraine constitution still sprightly at 10

By Han Manman

A news conference was held at the Ukraine embassy, and a party to celebrate a most important day – the 10th anniversary of the constitution of Ukraine.

In the news conference, the Ukrainian ambassador Mr Serhila. Kamyshev introduced the history of Ukraine Constitution and how it had influenced the country.

He said the Constitution of Ukraine was adopted at the 5th session of the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) of Ukraine, on June 28, 1996. The Constitution is the fundamental law of the land: laws and other normative legal acts must conform to it. The right to amend the Constitution through a special legislative procedure is vested exclusively with the parliament. The only body that may interpret the Constitution and determine whether legislation conforms to it is the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

A dinner party was held after the meeting. Officials from different embassies and experts from China and Ukraine were invited.

Global fund management: the world's favorite cash pastime

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Australian Chamber of Commerce (AustCham) presented a seminar on global funds management this Wednesday with the cooperation of Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants (CPA Australia).

Dr Phoon Kok Fai, a senior lecturer in the Department of Accounting and Finance at Monash University, and also Formerly Executive Director of Ferrell Asset Management, gave a lecture at the seminar. He introduced the concept of fund management, the function of a global fund manager, the portfolio investment process and the major asset classes.

"Investment in funds is so popular around the world including China, that fund management is something you should know if you are doing business here," said Dr Fai.

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Chinese team off to Germany after five-a-side triumph

By Tom Mackenzie

China's domestic league may be in crisis and their national team labeled an embarrassment, but at five-a-side at least, they have proven themselves to be champions.

On Saturday, Chinese team

Caisse beat expat hopefuls the Beijing Vikings 4-3 in the nail biting final of the Lufthansa Five-a-side Soccer Challenge at the Red Ball Bar in Sanlitun, winning five flights to Germany and a stay in a five star hotel in Munich.

"The final was fantastic and it

was great to see a Chinese team up against a foreign team," said Red Ball, co-owner Adam Schillinger. "Caisse were very, very good and deserved to win. The match was a great end to the tournament."

Twenty-two teams, including players from across Europe,

Africa, Asia and the US, took part in the competition, which kicked off at the beginning of June.

Following the success of the Lufthansa Soccer Challenge, organizers are planning further five-a-side competitions in July and September.



Hua Dan at performance
Photo by Chen Shasha

Hua Dan workshop launching new drama

By Chen Shasha

Hua Dan workshop will hold their Sunday evening workshop on July 2 in Jianwai SOHO in preparation for their new drama performance in September.

The workshop was set up by Caroline Watson from England in 2004 to help Chinese migrants in Beijing.

The Sunday evening workshops have become a fixed feature of Hua Dan, providing a weekly opportunity for the migrants to express themselves.

Working in cooperation with Dagongmei Zhijia, a well-known organization that works with migrant workers in Beijing, Hua Dan workshop has attracted many migrants, including waitresses, construction workers and house cleaners.

Through team building exercises and role-playing, the migrants can deal with the problems they encounter in their daily life. The themes of the Sunday evening workshops include separation from family, feelings and concepts of home, as well as difficulties experienced concerning migrant women's rights.

"We believe that theater workshops are the best medium to help an individual develop, as no other educational method engages with life at such creative and deep levels," said Caroline. A graduate from the Drama Department of Lancaster University in England, Caroline once helped a lot of poor people through drama when she was in college, and she wanted to do the same in China. Explaining why she became so interested in the problems faced by migrant workers, Caroline said, "Nowhere else in the world has changed as fast as China."

Did you forget your lamp?

By Jackie Zhang

An honest businessman has been patiently waiting for a foreign customer who bought a light at his lamp store at Wanlong-huiyang Lamp market in Fengtai District to return for the lamp.

"The man came to my store late last Wednesday and bought a stainless steel lamp for 350 yuan," said Zhang Xuechuan, the store owner. "He said he had to go downstairs to fetch something first and that he would come back to take the light. Then, he gave me 100 dollars as a deposit. I waited for him till half past eight that day but he did not come back. Judging from his appearance and dress, I guess he is an Arab."

In the following days, the staff of the market's manage-

ment department helped Zhang to look for the customer. They spread the word in the market and hung a sign at the door of the market as well.

"The man could not speak Chinese but could speak English. I think he might have lost his way in such a large market and gave up looking for the store," Zhang said. According to Zhang Xuechuan, the customer did not seem like a tourist.

"The light he bought is used for commercial projects, not domestically. If he were only a temporary tourist, he would not buy this kind of light. I hope that he can come back if he or his friends hear or see the notice. Or if he does not want to buy this light, I will return his deposit. I will keep waiting for him at the store."



Volunteer teaching kids using boxes

Photo provided by Magic Hospital

Magic Hospital's T-shirt Day photo exhibition

By Annie Wei

Magic Hospital held an exhibition of photos of its 'T-shirt Day' in Dashanzi Art District, displaying photos of t-shirt designs created by needy children.

Earlier this month, Magic Hospital held a special T-shirt day at around 11 locations in Beijing. A total of 1,500 children from orphanages, hospitals, migrant schools and shelters took part in the event and were given a box with a blank t-shirt and pens to draw their own designs.

The exhibition displayed photos of some of the children's t-shirt creations, and also photos of the kids working with the volunteers.

Hannah Oussedic, one of the

event organizers, said the exhibition was to thank people for their kind support and for helping to put smiles on the faces of children in need.

They hung out about 50 photos in the gallery. "The first photos show when the kids received the Magic Boxes, then the next ones show them practicing drawing on their pieces of paper with the coloured pencils. The final pictures show them drawing on their t-shirts with the fabric pens," said Oussedic.

Magic Hospital sent around 70 volunteers, both foreign and Chinese, and the children had a great time with them. Some of the photos also showed events at the migrant schools.

Solihull College develops football education

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Solihull College, England, in cooperation with Walsall Football Club, is going to perform a football course, including a demonstration, a skills test and a physical test at Beijing Muslim School next Tuesday, July 4.

The course is suitable for teenagers above sixteen years of age with some basic football training background. The

course will last for about forty minutes, guided by coaches from Solihull, and Richard Money, manager of Walsall. At the same time, the college and club will have a talk with Beijing Muslims on football education in China and the UK.

To attend the course, please contact Shi Yi at 6590 6903-355.

Those in attendance need to bring their own strip and boots.

N W

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Saddle up for summer horse riding



Riding in Zhangbei Bashang

Photo by Wu Laza

By Annie Wei

Summer is the perfect time for horse riding in the countryside according to China's Equestrian Association.

"Beijing gets very hot in July and August but the temperatures outside the city, beyond the Great Wall, are ideal," said Wu Laza, founder of the association. "In the summer season there's also an abundance of trees, flowers and shrubs."

Wu uses the Great Wall as a temperature gauge. South of the wall temperatures are too high for horse riding; north of the Great Wall the climate is fine. Wu says the areas of the Mongolian Plateau, known as 'Bashang' are the best place for horse riding in the summer.

Zhangbei Bashang, Fengning Bashang and Mulan Weichang are considered the best Bashang areas.

The end of June and early July are good times for visiting the Bashang on horseback, when the flowers are in bloom and the temperature hovers around 25 degrees.

"Not only can you enjoy the fun of horse-riding, you can also enjoy the views, traditional Chinese cooking and the chance to pick wild vegetables like mushrooms and herbs used in traditional Chinese medicine," said Wu.

"Compared with Europe or the US, horse-riding here is very

cheap," said Wu.

A two-day trip organized by the Equestrian Association, including food, accommodation and transport costs around 300 yuan.

Prices at other centers vary.

Horse-riding in Beijing:

Most of Beijing's new equestrian clubs are around a 30-minute drive from the city center. Clubs cater for everyone from beginners and children to professionals.

Horses in Beijing are usually German, Austrian or Russian breeds. Horses in Bashang tend to be Mongolian breeds. Most of the instructors come from Inner Mongolia, where the people have a long tradition of horse riding.

Wu Laza organizes horse-riding events every weekend. For more information, go to <http://www.horse.org.cn>, or call him: 13911799993.

Safety tips:

- 1 Dress comfortably. Heels or sandals are not suitable.
- 2 Do not ride after drinking alcohol.
- 3 Do not stand behind the horse in case of being kicked.
- 4 Make sure you are holding the headrope tightly when getting on and off the horse, otherwise the horse might get loose.
- 5 Do not ride close to another horse, to avoid being kicked. Do not try to compete with other riders during the trip.
- 6 Left shoulder to left shoulder: Riders should try to ride in the same direction. If this isn't possible then the left shoulder to left shoulder rule should apply. (Some European countries ride right shoulder to right shoulder.)
- 7 Slow on the inside, fast on the outside: Slower riders should ride on the inside track including those doing schooling. Riders working at a faster pace should stay on the outside track.
- 8 Keep a horse length between riders: Don't crowd other riders and keep at least a horse length between you and the horse in front of you. This keeps you at a safe distance from being kicked. Also when there are riders working on both the inside and outside track, leave enough passing room so that one horse isn't able to bite or kick at the horse on the other track.

Other equestrian centers:

Beijing Star Equestrian Training Center

Add: North Maquanying Cun, Sunhe Zhen, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6438 4947, 138 0120 0989

Beijing Green Equestrian Club

Add: North Bank of Wenyu River, Jichang Fu Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6457 7166, 6588 1508

Beijing Country Horse Racing

Add: 40-min drive along Jingshun Lu, turn right on Mapo Lu
Tel: 69401111
Daoxianghu racer's club
Add: Daoxianghu Gongyuan (Daoxianghu Park), Sujiatuo Xiang, Haidian District. (19km north from the Summer Palace. Drive along 330 bus route.)
Tel: 010-624558/79

Beijing Horseman's Park

Add: Beizang Village, Daxing County
Tel: 69275019
Swissotel Horse Racing Club
Add: Dongsi Shitiao Overpass
Tel: 65012288
Beijing Horsemanship club
Add: Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang District
Tel: 64364756

Visa matters, from F to Z

By Annie Wei

Chloe Mortimer, a British friend of mine has been struggling with her visa status for more than a month. She came to China six months ago with a business visa (F-visa), and was employed by a company shortly after arriving.

The company Chloe is working for has been hiring foreign employees from the first day of its establishment. And it usually handles foreign employees' visas, but not in Chloe's case.

"My Chinese colleagues tried

their best to help me, but they eventually told me I would have to leave the country and apply outside if I wanted to get a working visa," said Chloe.

What really infuriated her was that she knew that many of her friends had been in the same position but their companies had sorted everything out. "Every organization that employs foreigners in China arranges and pays for their visas and work permits," she said. "My company has good connections but claimed they could

not arrange my visa and even said I would have to pay."

So what are the rules regarding changing business and tourist visas into work visas?

Liu Jiewei, an official from Beijing's Exit and Entry Bureau, said, "Visas released by China's embassy in the foreigner's home country can't be changed into working visas in China. The other foreign employees working in Chloe's office came to China with working visas so they can extend

those as long as they continue to be employed in China."

But, as Chloe found out, there are ways around the problem.

She could either go to Hong Kong, with all the correct documents, such as a health certificate and letter from her employer and apply for a work visa there or put her trust in a visa agency in Beijing.

"I couldn't take time off work to go to Hong Kong so I paid an agency to sort out my visa," she said.

ASK Beijing Today

Greg from US asked:
I often see stone lions at the gates of traditional courtyards. But lions are not originally from China so why are they so popular here?

In China, lions are honored with the title the 'King of all the animals' and its image symbolizes power and prestige.

Lions are originally from Africa, India and South America. But it is believed that when Emperor Zhang of the Eastern Han reigned in AD 87, the King of Parthia presented a lion to him. The earliest stone lions were sculpted at the beginning of the Eastern Han Dynasty (25 - 220 AD) with the introduction of Buddhism into ancient China. It is said, Sakyamuni, the historical Buddha, was seen after birth "to point to Heaven with one hand and to Earth with another, roaring like a lion." In the Buddhist faith, the lion is considered a divine animal of nobleness and dignity, which can protect the 'dharma' and ward off evil.

Stone lions are also seen in Chinese palaces, temples, Buddhist pagodas, officials' houses, gardens, and tombs as well as on some official stamps. The most common lions in Beijing are those standing guard at the gateways to offices and commercial buildings.

Rich families do not normally just place one lion at the gate but a pair, a male and a female. The male lion will be placed on the left with his right paw resting on a ball, and the female on the right with her left paw on a cub. The ball symbolizes the unity of the empire, and the cub with the female a thriving offspring. It also matches with Chinese traditional ideas that men should be seated on the left and women on the right.

The practice of carving stone lions reached its peak during the Tang Dynasty. But stone lions were widely used at the gates of ordinary people's homes until the Ming Dynasty.

The stone lions were also used to indicate the ranks of officials by the number of bumps representing the curly hair on the head of the lion. The houses of first grade officials had lions with 13 bumps and the number of bumps decreased by one as the rank of the official went down each grade.

It was also popular to decorate bridges with sculpted-stone lions for the same reason. The best known of this is the Lugouqiao (also known as Marco Polo Bridge), built between 1189 and 1192. The stone lions on the posts of the bridge are very famous. It is said there are 485 lions in all, but there may be 498 or 501. According to a famous proverb, "The lions on the Lugouqiao are uncountable."

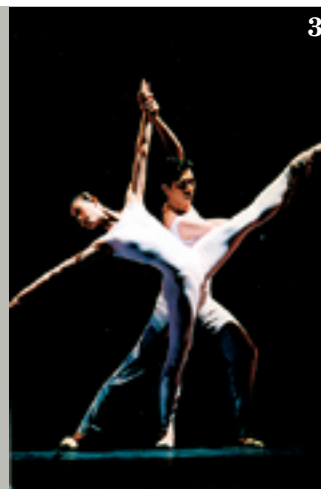
(By Wei Ying)



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2



3



4

1, 2. Li Jun and Wang Qimin; 3, 4, 5, 8. Yu Bo and Zhu Yan; 6, 7. Li Ke and Zhang Jian.

Photos (1, 2) provided by the National Ballet of China

Photos (3 to 8) by Ye Jin

By Xie Lixue

It was Saturday night when the first second round game of the World Cup was ready to blow its whistle in Germany. At the same time, a group of passionate Chinese performers were playing the sinewy hustle on the other side of the earth, under a senior French coach. This was Roland Petit's *Pink Floyd Ballet* by the National Ballet of China.

It's only been half a year since Petit was first invited to bring his masterpieces like *Carmen*, *L'Arlesienne* and *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort* to Beijing last November.

"The dancers in China are wonderful," he said, "They're among the top five in the world. I'm happy that I can do something for them."

Rock and roll music, lasers as the backdrop and Michael Jackson's mechanical robot steps marry here with the pointe shoes, the grand jete and the pirouette.

Instead of telling a story, this ballet, comprising 18 single dances (including one encore) of solo, duo, quintet and even corps de ballet of 36 dancers, is inspired by Pink Floyd's songs and music. "It's an absolute feast of steps and melody," says Zhao Ruheng, the director and artistic director of National Ballet of China. "And you'll find how harmonious they are in the hands of Roland Petit."

With Pink Floyd's creative sound effects like the coin sounding from an electronic cash register in *Money*,

and the heart beating and the hoarse male shouting in *Run like Hell*, Petit fuses modern pop dancing, Chinese martial arts and dramatic body language with rigid and feminine ballet.

"My sources are different when I create a ballet," Petit explains. "But I eat, sleep, live and love like everyone else." Therefore, we feel an emotional dialogue between a boy and a girl in *Hey You*, and get an electric shock in *Run like Hell*.

The hall on that night turns out to be a dance floor, where the ballet-dancers rock their bodies, and we wave arms and clap hands and pictographic people dance in the laser light.

It's Petit's night, his *pièce de résistance*.

About Pink Floyd Ballet

Pink Floyd Ballet was born in early 1970s when Valentine, Petit's daughter, gave him a Pink Floyd album. He fell in love with the music as soon as he listened to it and immediately flew to London to invite the band to create a ballet with him.

In November of 1972, they got together to collaborate on a ballet based on *Remembrance of Things Past*, and created about 30 minutes of original music for the dance.

The next year, Pink Floyd Ballet made its debut, performed by the National Ballet of Marseille in Paris. The band performed live on stage together with ballet dancers.

Then in 2004, Pink Floyd Ballet was revived by Asami Maki Ballet Tokyo, who performed it in Paris for the first time in 30 years.



Obscured by Clouds



Run like Hell



About Roland Petit

French dancer and choreographer; born in Villemomble, France in 1924, and renowned worldwide as one of this century's three great ballet choreographers. Trained at the Paris Opera Ballet School, Petit joined the company in 1940 but left in 1944 to create and perform his own works at the Theatre Sarah Bernhardt in Paris. In 1945 Petit joined others in creating the Champs-Elysees Ballet Troupe, where he remained as principal dancer, ballet master, and choreographer until 1947. In 1948 he formed the Ballets de Paris de Roland Petit, which made several tours of Europe and the United States. His choreography was often angular or acrobatic and was considered theatrical in its use of mime dance, occasional singing, and props such as cigarettes and telephones. He even uses dance steps to express the acts of smoking, making telephone calls, bathing and other daily activities. Critics say that Petit "combines high artistry with popular art, so that the popular and the refined can be enjoyed simultaneously."

Rock

Roland Petit adds some China with Pink Floyd



One of These Days

The choreographer

Roland Petit

I hate the Beatles, because of this [he shakes his bare head, gesturing long shag hair by hands], and this [he widely opens his mouth to imitate the harsh shouting]. But the music of Pink Floyd is fantastic, and I love them so much for their modern rock and roll. The performance 30 years ago with Pink Floyd was a big success, and we all loved it. This time, I assure you the Chinese one is more marvelous.

I travel the world all my life. Why don't I stay a little

bit longer at the place with so many wonderful young people? I specially created a 15-minute play with Ye Xiaogang's beautiful music for them this time. The girl and the boy sit on the ground fighting with their eyes. It's such a moving story when I see them love and hate and finally kill each other.

Ballet is part of my life, besides my wife, to express who I am. There is no such classical or modern bias, but only good and bad for me. You decide whether you love the Pink Floyd Ballet or not.



'n' Ballet

ne glam to the National Ballet of
d Ballet



Photos provided by the National Ballet of China

Review

Simple, sexy, very exciting

By Yu Shanshan

The National Ballet of China (also known as China Central Ballet) is aiming at the international stage and they deserve the broadest 'bravo' for their new show, Roland Petit's *Pink Floyd Ballet (Rock 'n' Roll Ballet* in Chinese).

I never expected the debut on June 24 in the Centennial Hall of the Beijing University could be so invigorating. It's only about dance, minimal stage set (only some laser pictures on the back wall) and costumes (white tights).

What a moment when Wu Yan (solo dancer) cut onto the stage like lightning to *Run Like Hell*. He was a new rising star, a sudden discovery of mine when the company re-staged *Syria* in Poly Theatre in December 2004, in which he was the God of Love, who shone with surprisingly elegant jumps and turns, and a funny and light performance. Not the Romeo-type guy, Wu Yan. He suits the solo dance more than raising girls on his shoulder, better when he's the one and only star under his own spotlight, making most use of his soft body.

In contrast, Li Jun and Yu Bo, the two principal boys looked excellent as usual, one bristling with muscle and the other fine and exquisite, but less tuned to my heart. You could



Wu Yan

see the difference especially when Li Jun and Wu Yan danced a duo in *When You're In*.

Roland asked for Central Ballet to stage this relatively new work (1970s). It stands in comparison with the company's performance of his three dances *Carmen*, *L'Arlesienne* and *Le Jeune Homme et la Mort* last autumn, which were created 50 years ago. He also

supervised the whole rehearsal, praising these young Chinese talents.

The debut was a hilarious success, like a live rock concert, and we saw for the first time ever an encore for Central Ballet's performance (for *One of These Days*).

Apart from Wu Yan's solo dance at the beginning, another five-male dance later is strongly recommended. But of course, the girls played their role beautifully, like Zhu Yan and Yu Bo in *Hey You*, Wang Qimin and Li Jun in *Echoes*.

You can see what Petit did specially for the Central Ballet, just dance – ballet plus street dance plus rock and jazz dance and even some Chinese martial arts and acrobatics.

After that, you cannot tell which you love more, Central Ballet or *Pink Floyd*.

The company will stage this at the end of this year in Poly Theatre. I'm sure to go!

The art director

Zhao Ruheng

My first visit to check how far my dancers had gone was the 10th day after they began to rehearse, and they really gave me a great surprise. When I first decided to perform rock and roll style, I hoped to expand the range of my dancers, and to let them experience more ballet types than just classical ones. As a former ballerina, I understand it's difficult for us to shake our bodies like hip-hop dancers (Asami Maki Ballet Tokyo invited some professional hip-hop dancers to perform in 2004). But my boys and girls finally made it and stirred every muscle on their body. I'm so proud of them.

The dancers

Zhu Yan, premier danseuse

I like *Pink Floyd Ballet* very much, because it connects with the youth. People can see it through our performance: passionate, wild and crazy. It's a kind of release of my heart, and I feel so happy even though my body yelps tired. Roland Petit is very nice to us and takes great consideration on different roles.

Zhou Zhaohui, coryphee

It must be the most exhausting ballet I've ever performed. At first, every one of us sank into a happy mood; while now ... [he acts a breath-

less man who has no strength to say a word after two rehearsals]

Li Jun, principal dancer

Actually, I'm not a big fan of rock and roll music. *Pink Floyd Ballet* is a bold attempt and I'm trying a different type of ballet. Although it contains elements such as hip-hop, we have pointe, sauté and pirouette, and more importantly, the neat clothes! You can still feel the elegance and charm of the ballet. I believe that by cooperating with masters like Roland Petit, we can promote our reputation to compete with other companies in the world.

Li Ke, coryphee

I'm into R&B. I learned Chinese classical dancing instead of ballet in the past, so my body, especially my back and waist, are flexible. Among the five pieces of my dancing, the quintet *Run like Hell* must be the most exciting one. The first time we danced it, Petit turned on the music and said: "OK, boys, dance whatever you like." So except for the same movements of our five, my steps you see today will be different on the other day. Petit gives me so much space to express myself.

Wu Yan, coryphee

I was born with rock and roll blood, and the dance makes it explode.

I use up all of my energy in the opening solo of *Run like Hell*, which is also my favorite. I can hardly withdraw my vigor when the music is on, though I feel my legs go jelly for the next three dances. My pals backstage whistle to encourage me, and I really love the atmosphere.

To be honest, it's incredibly exhausting and I lose three kilograms during the one-month exercise. But Petit is a genius not only on ballet, but also on music. He picks up the most beautiful pieces of *Pink Floyd*, some romantic, some sorrowful. Anyway, they touch me, and it fires my enthusiasm.

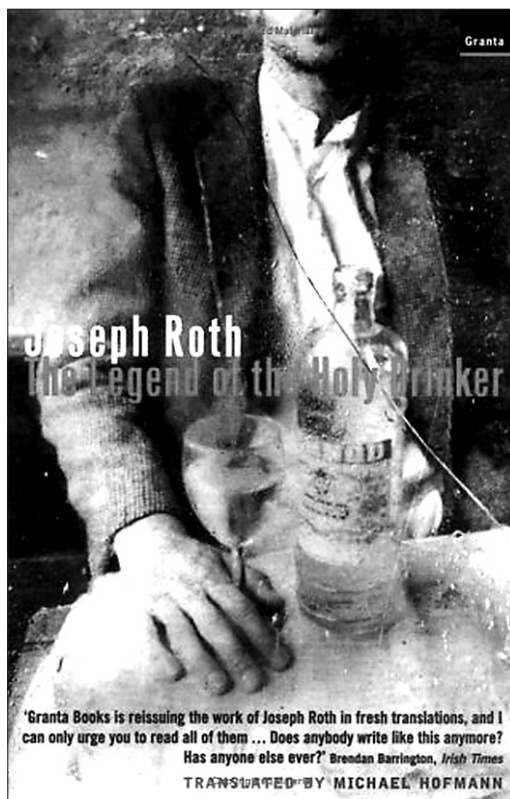
The Legend of the Holy Drinker

By Joseph Roth

(translated by Michael Hofmann)

Key themes: Paris, drinking, miracles.

Synopsis: This book, Roth's most haunting, was published in 1939, the year the author died. Like Andreas, the hero of the story, Roth drank himself to death in Paris, but this is not an autobiographical confession. It is a secular miracle-tale, in which the vagrant Andreas, after living under bridges, has a series of lucky breaks that lift him briefly onto a different plane of existence. The novella is extraordinarily compressed, dry-eyed and witty, despite its melancholic subject matter. *The Legend of the Holy Drinker* was turned into a film by Enrico Olmi, starring Rutger Hauer.



Europe, boozing, miracles... sounds like the perfect World Cup read.

"What a marvelous writer! Read him now. You can thank me later."

— Michael Dirda, *The Washington Post Book World*

But I'll miss the football...

"[*The Legend of the Holy Drinker*] is a masterpiece... a powerfully addictive work that grows even greater with each reading."

— *The Evening Standard*

OK, I'm convinced. But wasn't this translated from German?

"Michael Hofmann's superb translation has rightly garnered much praise. Hofmann stresses that, although often esteemed for the simplicity of his style, Roth is no brutalist: it is the economy and the directness of his writing that is so moving and makes his work so special. Despite its melancholic subject matter *The Legend* is an uplifting novella."

— Amazon.com

Sounds just like the German football team that spanked Sweden so convincingly. Only more sentimental.

"From now on, when I see Rutger Hauer, I'll no longer automatically expect him to pull out a shot-gun and start blasting!"

— Trashcity.com

You're talking about the film version now aren't you? How about Roth as a man and a writer?

"[Translator] Michael Hofmann, who also contributes an introduction...compares Roth at his best with Anton Chekhov. [But although he was one of Germany's highest paid journalists he would] keep his distance from mere newspapermen. [Roth said] 'I don't write so-called witty commentaries. I sketch the features of the age... I am a journalist, not a reporter, I am a writer, not a fashioner of lead articles.'"

— JM Coetzee, *New York Review of Books*

Well hark at Mr Fancy-Dan.

"He worked as a tutor to the young sons of a countess, and in the process picked up such dandyish mannerisms as kissing the hands of ladies, carrying a cane, wearing a monocle. He began to publish poems."

— JM Coetzee, *New York Review of Books*

Well, he'd better have been a pretty good writer carrying on like that.

"Roth's feel for what can and what cannot be achieved in the short story form is sure. [but] Roth is not a modernist. Part of the reason is ideological, part temperamental, part, frankly, the fact that he did not keep up with developments in the literary world. Roth did not read much; he liked to quote Karl Kraus: 'A



Joseph Roth

writer who spends his time reading is like a waiter who spends his time eating."

— JM Coetzee, *New York Review of Books*

...I'm wondering what that makes a reporter who spends all his time watching the World Cup...and Hofmann? Isn't he a poet? What's all this translating doing to him?

"Hofmann's English is as expressive, poised, and precise as Roth's German at its best. However, Roth did not always write as well as he could, and what Hofmann does when Roth is at less than top form is cause for concern. Hofmann seems to have decided that he can better render Roth's meaning by recasting or condensing the text than by translating every word. But is it part of a translator's job to give his author lessons in economy? On occasion Hofmann improves on Roth to the point of rewriting him."

— JM Coetzee, *New York Review of Books*

So Roth has become Hofmann's puppet? Displaying his work like a kind of literary Peter Crouch dangling from power lines?

"The imputation that I go around 'making Roth better' I regard as a slur, and reject. Mr Coetzee is wonderfully mistaken if he thinks a novel can be compared to an enormous number, and he can stand there and say, 'There's an 8-what have you done with it?' Mr Coetzee must know really that there are no exact equivalents anyway. *Brot* is not bread. Words are not like numbers, they are unstable and porous. A 'word-for-word translation' is a rotten proposition: you'd get Gert Frobe and not Joseph Roth"

— Michael Hofmann, *New York Review of Books*

OK boys, put down the handbags...JM, why are you picking on Michael?

"Hofmann is British, and now and again uses British locutions whose meaning may escape the American reader."

— JM Coetzee, *New York Review of Books*

Well Michael, you have the final word.

"I'm not British, I'm German."

— Michael Hofmann, *New York Review of Books*

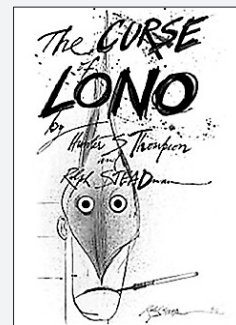
(By Gareth George)

Local shelf

Summer of Love: Art of the Psychedelic Era

By Christoph Grunenberg
Tate, 240 pages, 315 yuan

Colorful, thought provoking, eclectic, and readable, the book is the definitive guide to the art of the psychedelic era. Richly illustrated, the book presents a wide range of images of artworks – posters, record covers, photography, and film-alongside a wealth of contextual material and a number of informative essays by leading academics, cultural theorists, and critics.



The Curse of Lono

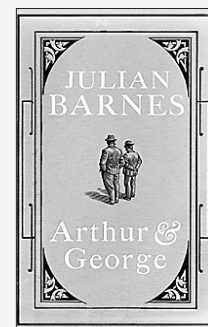
By Hunter S. Thompson
Taschen, 208 pages, 450 yuan

The crazy tales of a journalist's 'coverage' of a news event that ends up being a wild ride to the dark side of America. Originally published in 1983, *Curse* features all of the zany, hallucinogenic word-play and feral artwork for which the Hunter S. Thompson/Ralph Steadman duo became known and loved. This curious book, considered an oddity among Hunter's oeuvre, was long out of print, prompting collectors to search high and low for an original copy.

Available:

Timezone 8 Art books

Where: Jia 24-2 Meishuguan
Dong Dajie, Dongcheng
Contact: 6400 4427



Arthur and George

By Julian Barnes
Jonathon Cape, 360 pages, 270 yuan

Arthur and George grow up worlds and miles apart in late nineteenth-century's Britain: Arthur in shabby-genteel Edinburgh, George in the vicarage of a small Staffordshire village. Arthur becomes a doctor, and then a writer, and George a solicitor in Birmingham. Arthur is to become one of the most famous men of his age, and George remains in hardworking obscurity. But as the new century begins, they are brought together by a sequence of events that made sensational headlines at the time as *The Great Wyrley Outrages*.

Available:

Beijing Bookworm

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang
Contact: 6586 9507

(By Wang Xiaoyuan)

Sunshine in a bottle

By Chu Meng

Mention the word 'Spain' and a collection of stunning images spring to mind. Eternal sunshine, pristine beaches, the mystique of flamenco...and, of course, superb food: delicious seafood, virgin olive oil, fine wines, fresh cheeses and an array of delicacies unique to the country itself.

Spain is rich in sunshine, helping things grow, including the fresh

ingredients found in genuine Spanish cuisine. When Shakespeare deemed Spanish sherry "the sunshine of Spain in a bottle" he spoke for everyone through the ages who has enjoyed the sunshine of Spain by sampling true Spanish cuisine. A mysterious place, never predictable and always vibrant, the Mediterranean is a region where life is to be lived, and food adds the spice to life!

Mare: great spot for weekend breakfasts and brunches

By Chu Meng

Meaning 'ocean' in Latin, Mare is the ideal choice of name for a restaurant not only serving the most delicious Spanish cuisine, but also allowing you to absorb the culture of Spain, and its historic relationship with the Mediterranean.

Mare serves 30 different kinds of delicious tapas. A uniquely Spanish-style snack, the word *tapa* means a lid or cover. It has its origins in the old Spanish custom of putting a piece of bread over an open wine glass to keep the flies and dust at bay. Gradually, additional ingredients such as ham and olives were added to the bread, which over the course of time developed into the range of light, tasty snacks we now know and love as tapas.

The ingredients in tapas evolved from the rudimentary Spanish ham, cheese, olive oil, and garlic on bread, to become an exotic and delicate culture of fine snacks.



Chicken croquettes in Mare

Melon with Iberico ham in Mare

Travelers from all corners of the globe flock to Spain, and one of the first things they fall in love with is tapas. Chicken croquettes, sizzling garlic prawns, or melon with Iberico ham (ham from the famous Spanish black-footed pig) should be your first choices.

Whether you're a gourmet or an occasional diner, the name *paella* can immediately whet your appetite for tasty Mediterranean cuisine. This legendary Spanish dish presents diners with a stunning range of flavors, from succulent shrimps and mussels to freshly-ground pepper with a tangy lemon garnish - you can almost smell the ocean air.

Mare

Where: 14 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 12am-2: 30pm, 6:30pm-10: 30pm, 200 yuan per person

Tel: 6417 1459/ 5431

Photos provided by Mare



Spanish snacks

Workers' Gymnasium

Open: 11:30am - 2: 30pm, 6pm - 12pm, 150 yuan per person

Tel: 6416 6231

Photo provided by Ashandi

Ashandi: heaped portions of paella

By Chu Meng

Not to be confused with Afunti, the famous Xinjiang restaurant, Ashandi is a curious Spanish restaurant opposite the Workers' Gymnasium (not the Workers' Stadium), and so it is a good place to go while the crowd disperses after a concert and taxis become available again. However, the service here is slow, despite the large

number of staff. It is a popular place and getting a table can be difficult between 6pm and 8pm, but then it empties out for the rest of the evening like most other Beijing restaurants.

Customers of all nationalities frequent this cozy, tastefully decorated Spanish restaurant. On weekends the place becomes a bit wild when the music is louder and

everyone starts dancing. At any time, the tasty Spanish fare and wine are sure to please. Enjoy the *tapas*, tortillas, Spanish omelets, *paella* (a mixture of rice with various meats and vegetables) and garlic prawns. However, avoid the murcia salad.

Ashandi

Where: 168 Xinzhong Lu, across from the north gate of the



Cheese and spinach backed mushrooms

Ingredients:

2 tbsp olive oil

1/2 medium onion, finely chopped

1 garlic clove, finely chopped

75g rice, cooked

150g fresh baby spinach, blanched, drained and chopped pinch nutmeg

25g of any vegetarian blue cheese, crumbled

4 flat mushrooms, stalks trimmed

To serve tomato and lettuce salad

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C.

2. Heat half the oil in a pan and gently stir-fry the onion and garlic until golden, then place in a medium sized mixing bowl.

3. Add the next four ingredients and mix well together to create the stuffing. Divide into four and fill the mushroom caps.

4. Use the remaining oil to grease the base of a roasting tin. Place the mushrooms in the tin and bake in a pre-heated oven for 15-20 minutes until cooked.

(By Chu Meng)

Torero: a touch of Spain in Beijing

By Chu Meng

The Torero is famous for its genuine salted Spanish dried ham - the perfect accompaniment to a crisp fine wine, and their *Jamon Iberico* (ham from the famous Spanish black-footed pig) is widely regarded as one of the finest in the city.

Try the *paella valenciana* (80 yuan) - green beans, chicken, beef, shrimp, rabbit,

clam and curried rice. Other dishes include salted prawns flavored with garlic; pan-fried rabbit with vegetables; stewed pork with tomato juice; grilled lamb with garlic and mayonnaise; boiled clams with garlic and parsley; deep-fried squid with lemon; roasted eel and pan-fried trout served with Spanish ham.

The comfortable and homely

decor, boasting a typical Spanish-style interior, includes paintings and rugs from Spain. Melodious Iberian music wafts through, and pictures present a panoramic view of Spain's beautiful landscapes.

Torero

Where: 4 Ritan North Road, Jianguomen, Chaoyang

Open: 10:30am - 2: 30pm,

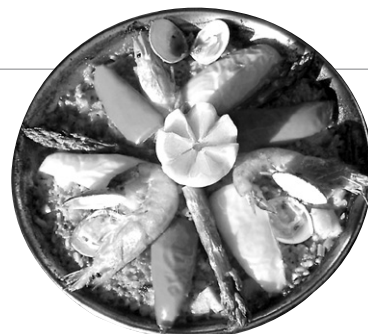


Mushroom Veggie Burger

5:30pm - 11pm, 100 - 150 yuan per person

Tel: 6595 0726

Photo provided by Torero



Paella in Tapas

By Chu Meng

This hacienda-cum-restaurant goes for the rustic Spanish look with warm orange walls, a yellow ceiling and wooden paneling. Over 40 kinds of *tapas*, the Spanish equivalent of the Chinese *xiao chi* or small snacks, are

available at this new Sanlitun restaurant at very reasonable prices, all around 8 to 15 yuan. Main dishes are also available, with signature Spanish specials like Paella and black rice (Spanish rice with seafood and squid ink) going for 190 yuan.

This is the third restaurant in Beijing opened by owner Carlos Chordi, who has over 15 years of experience in the restaurant industry, seven of those spent in China. Carlos is a Spanish chef, trained in the most reputable school for chefs in Spain. After a successful career in France and Portugal, he decided to bring Spanish cuisine to China. In 1998, he opened the first Spanish restaurant in Beijing,

which has been welcomed by locals and foreigners alike.

Tapas Spanish Restaurant and Bar provides the most typical and exquisite Spanish rice, Spanish omelets, Spanish tomato and garlic bread and so many other delicacies that can be accompanied by delicious Spanish wines or sangria.

Tapas

Where: Sanlitun Beijie (on the second floor inside Nali mini shopping center, just beside the famous Alameda restaurant)

Open: 11am - 1am, 150 yuan per person

Tel: 6417 8038/7946

Photo provided by Tapas

Voucher

Get a 50-yuan voucher at Mala Fangchengshi restaurant (16 Xiuyuan Anhui Beili, Chaoyang) when you spend over 100 yuan (until July 12). The restaurant offers hot and spicy Sichuan dishes. For details, call 6316 7536.



Free dish

Spend over 100 yuan at Li Lao Die hot pot restaurant (Cai-shikou Lukou, Xuanwu) and get a 120-yuan voucher (until July 9). The restaurant offers Sichuan-flavored fish head and crab hot pot, and also has a big screen for the World Cup. For details, call 6316 7536.



Voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at Hai Yu Tian Feng restaurant (40 Beisanhuan Zhonglu, Haidian) and you will get a free dish (11 pm, until July 9). The restaurant offers hot and spicy hot pot, and a big screen for the World Cup. For details, call 5201 7753.



Voucher

B&Q hardware store (Lai-guangying, Chaoyang) caters for all your DIY needs, as well as furniture and fittings. From now on, you will get a 600-yuan voucher if you spend over 5,000 yuan on floorboards at any B&Q. For details, call 8846 6611.



50% off

Enjoy a 50 percent discount at Yue Tang Shi Dai hot pot restaurant (1 Xidawanglu, Chaoyang) until July 3 (except seafood and drinks). The restaurant offers traditional and seafood hotpot. For details, call 6538 8065.



Discount

Spend over 100 yuan at Dianmen Shopping Center (31 Dianmenwai Dajie, Xicheng) and enjoy a 20-50 yuan discount (until July 2). The discounted goods include sportswear, watches and silver accessories. For details, call 6316 7536.



15% off

Philips household appliances are on sale at the Grand Pacific Shopping mall (Juntai, 133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng, 15% off until July 5). For details, call 6612 6888.



Special offer

Traders Cafe (1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang) will have 'Theme Nights' from July. Check out the 'theme corner' on the daily buffet spread that features different promotions for every meal, and offers over 10 varieties on any one featured - Claypot specials during Monday lunchtime; Italian on Wednesday nights, Singaporean and Malaysian on Thursday nights, Asian BBQ for Sunday lunches. For details, call 6505 2277 ext. 35.

(By Terence Lu)



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Hotel Kunlun, in partnership with the famed Le Cordon Bleu®, is proud to announce a fabulously gastronomic French Food Promotion from 7 to 21 July 2006.

Michelin Star Chef Bernard Guilhaudin of Le Cordon Bleu® Paris, and Master Pastry Chef Pierre Wolf, will demonstrate their skills through the 14th of July. Witness them prepare a nightly array of regional French dinners at the Summit Club, and exhibit their talents to industry experts and food enthusiasts during special cooking demonstrations.

For further details, kindly contact 6590 3388, extensions 8419 / 5195.

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www.hotelkunlun.com

By Wang Xiaoyuan

At an exhibition of graduate designers from the fashion design department of China Central Academy of Fine Arts last weekend, Joanne Ooi, creative director of Shanghai

Tang, the famous Hong Kong-based fashion company, helped to create a new look for traditional Chinese clothes – Qipao. The theme was 'Nothing and More'. Below, Ooi picks out four of the best designs from China's up-and-coming designers.

Shanghai Tang helps to deconstruct Qipao



Edge Guo Zehan

Guo Zehan, who is going to work for Exception when she graduates, did not spend too much time thinking about Qipao when she was designing. "The starting point of my design is the piping on the traditional Qipao", she said. "Because the 1930s was such a long time ago I took as the basis of my interpretation, my own intuition and feelings about the Qipao from the past."

Fei Zhou Yan

Zhou Yan designed a wild and bright, violet colored mini skirt. She used knitting cloth instead of cotton or silk to make her collection. "For me, Qipao represents cultural fusion and intersection. It reveals femininity and sexiness. But the 1930s was still the era when men held all the positions of power. Women at that time could understand the tight, constraining, straitening power of the dress. Therefore, the subject of my project is 'fei', which means 'negative' or 'not' or 'to deny'. In this case, Qipao is a reflection of the restriction of women while it also means 'not as it appears'. My design reveals women's struggle for freedom and their internal sexiness. The use of raw edges and destroyed openings in the shape directly transferred my concept."



Hurt Luo Yuexi

"My inspiration was Ruan Lingyu, the famous movie actress in the 1930s. She always wore Qipao on the screen. Her whole life was a desperate struggle for freedom. At the age of 25, rumor had it that she committed suicide. It was then that I suddenly discovered the spirit of Qipao. Just like her life: once beautiful, but ending in tragedy. Then I made the loose and asymmetrical robe with layers. The luxurious silk layer was rolled up and the inner torn flax exposed."

Those eaten...

When you first see Kong Fanfan's 'Those eaten...' collection, you might think they look alien because the cloth has a silver, metal look. The models were covered in it from head to toe. A piece of Qipao was folded as a sculpture, and fixed on the back, waist and head of the models. Suddenly the audi-

Kong Fanfan

ence could see that that was the life of a Qipao. As the models walked, they could see how a Qipao was made, worn, and went out of date. You could say that the collection was talking about history. Kong said, "Qipao is culture that we have lost, and want to retrieve."



Words from a professional:

"I was very excited when seeing the students' works", said Ooi, "at first, my advise to them was to think about Qipao from a more abstract and sensible angle. Actually, it was not easy for me to pass my message to the students, as there was no exact Chinese translation of my concept. What I tried to do was to help them to abandon commercial designing concern completely and enter a much purer process. Now I see they have made it."

The students' works will be exhibited in Shanghai Tang's flagship stores around the world, starting in Hong Kong. "We want the best student designers' works to be used in our series and introduced into the market in the future. If they are not ready to wear we will invite advanced tailors to produce samples for the exhibition. It is our responsibility to support the new generation of Chinese designers," said Ooi.



Shanghai Tang's view of Qipao – an unlimited concept

Insisting that good design must own its content, Shanghai Tang's understanding of Qipao has gone far beyond a Chinese traditional dress. "I would say our current concern is contemporary art," said Ooi. "We use elements of Peking opera, calligraphy, the Qing Dynasty and minority ethnic groups in our designs. I

have spent a lot of time traveling around China to see how minority people live and adopted Mongolian clothes and decorations in one of our collections. I am always searching for something beyond tradition. Most people refer to the Qing Dynasty when mentioning current Chinese style, which is too limited."

About Shanghai Tang

Shanghai Tang set out to create the first global Chinese lifestyle brand by revitalizing Chinese designs by interweaving traditional Chinese culture with the dynamism of the 21st Century.

The brand was founded in 1994 by Hong Kong businessman David Tang (Tang Wingcheung). The name, 'Shanghai Tang', evokes the elegance and charm of fashionable Shanghai in the 1930's.

Unique to Shanghai Tang is Imperial Tailors, which revives the diminishing art of 'Chinese haute couture' – delicately crafted apparel redelivered by a team of traditional Shanghaiese tailors. Lush cut velvets; silk jacquards, chiffon, organza, delicate linens, and printed cottons provide a collection of brilliant colors and textures.

"We would like to open up to different cultures and styles", said Joanne, "When we sell the clothes, we are selling charm."



Shanghai Tang Beijing store:

Add: Boarding Gate No. 12, International Departure lounge, Beijing Capital International Airport
Tel: 6459 8180
Beijing Oriental Grand Hyatt Plaza store will open soon.



Anti-mosquito
electric heater

That irritating high-pitched humming noise by your ears, those itchy red bites, the incessant scratching. Yes, mosquito season is here and it can be enough to drive some people crazy.

Many of us would like nothing more than to see the little blood suckers wiped from the earth's surface but that seems unlikely, as they have been around for a lot longer.

But, as we detail below there are an arsenal of products available to help put an end to mosquito misery, from traditional Chinese treatments to hi-tech computer software.



Geranium

Putting an end to mosquito misery

Keeping the blood suckers at bay



Mosquito repellent tissue

Mosquito repellent light

Mosquito repellent light

The photons released by the light repels mosquitoes. The best thing about the light is that it gives off no smell, smoke, and radiation and has no harmful affects on human beings or animals.

Price: 40-50 yuan

Available: department stores and major supermarkets

Geranium

The mosquito geranium smells like citronella and is advertised as having a natural mosquito repellent. The plant grows in both the south and the north of the country and should be placed in shadows outside in high temperatures and indoors during the winter.

Price: 15 yuan per gram (seeds), 50-80 yuan per pot

Available: main supermarkets (for seeds); Laitai Flower Market, Maizidian Xi Lu, Chaoyang; Liangmahe Flower Market, East of Liangmaqiao, Chaoyang

Anti-mosquito essence oil and electronic oven

The metal electric oven heats up gradually, heating the oil as the temperature goes up and repelling mosquitoes. The oil is replaceable and comes in jasmine, eucalyptus, rose and lavender.

Price: 7 yuan for oil; 17-20 yuan for the oven.

Available: major supermarkets and department stores.

Mosquito repellent tissues

You can take them with you anywhere: camping, fishing, hiking, to watch the game or even to parties. Wipe the tissues on exposed skin and mosquitoes will be repelled for five to six hours. Price: 5 yuan per package

Available: Watsons pharmacies in town.

Anti-mosquito spray

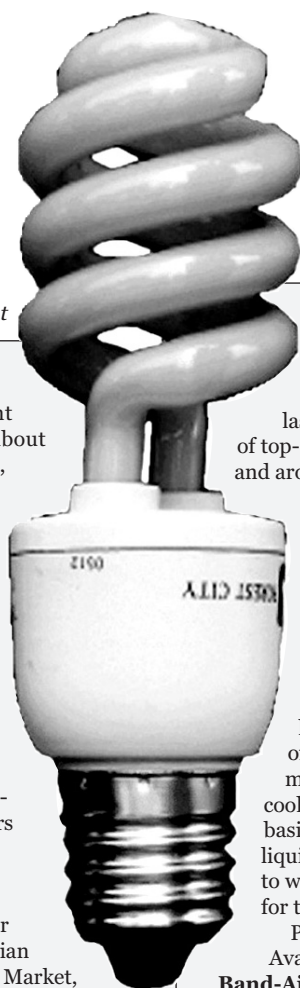
The spray is a mixture of honeysuckle, wild chrysanthemum, peppermint, camphor oil, amboynas and other ingredients which can be sprayed on the body.

Price: 15-20 yuan

Available: major supermarkets.

Mosquito repellent software

Believe it or not, Zhi Neng Guang Pu KM300 is software, that can produce a sound at the same frequency as a bat, dragonfly or male mosquito to repel the blood sucking female mosquitoes. Available: <http://www.e666.cn/Software/Catalog37/3213.html>



If you have been bitten...

Feng You Jing balm

This is the original natural mosquito repellent, which has traditionally been used by the Chinese since the last century. It is made with many kinds of top-quality natural herbal drugs and rare and aromatic vegetable balms.

Mentholatum peppermint gel (45-50 yuan)

Price: 23-25 yuan

Available: all good pharmacies.

Similar products: Qing Liang You balm (0.3 yuan); and

Flora water

There are hundreds of brands and types available in shops: from dandelion, jasmine to the gall of snake. Most of them soothe the itching and inflammation caused by mosquito bites, while cooling the skin. You can pour some into a basin of cold water, then soak a towel in the liquid. Before you go to bed, use the towel to wipe your face and body, to protect you for the whole night.

Price: 10-15 yuan

Available: all supermarkets

Band-Aid anti-itch gel, Johnson & Johnson

Cool relief on contact for insect bites and Poison Ivy, Oak and Sumac. The gel dries invisibly and has a non-greasy formula. The product is for adults and children over two.

Price: 8.5 yuan

Available: major supermarkets



Band-Aid



Anti-itch gel



Anti-mosquito spray



Feng You Jing



Flora water

(By Wang Xiaoyuan)

Health Astrology

July 3–July 9

(Only a game)

Aries March 21 – April 19

So there's a little tension in the air – that doesn't mean you have to act impulsively just to change the mood. Stay centered and keep in touch with reality. Getting swept away in the moment is dangerous.

Taurus April 20 – May 20

Don't put too much faith in a recurrent fantasy. It's time to face reality and see what the facts say. Take stock of what's in front of you. Otherwise you could be setting yourself up for easily avoidable problems.

Gemini May 21 – June 21

Follow your intuition. Your infallible instincts tell you to make a move that seems nonsensical to onlookers. However, your daring will bring you tremendous luck if you're brave enough to follow through.

Cancer June 22 – July 22

All you need is one true friend. It doesn't matter if the population at large doesn't get what you're doing. When someone who really gets you applauds what you're doing, you feel like you can keep going forever.

Leo July 23 – Aug. 22

This sense of dissatisfaction is actually beneficial. You're moving in the wrong direction, and these feelings of unease are your instincts letting you know you can still change course before it's too late.

Virgo Aug. 23 – Sept. 22

Outwardly, you may be the picture of confidence, but inwardly, you're shaking in your boots. It's time to cultivate a sense of faith. When you're ready to take the leap, the ground will be there.

Libra Sept. 23 – Oct. 22

Something is blocking your actions. Could that force be you? Look inward to find the source of this resistance. It's probably deep-rooted, stubborn and subtle. Be patient and work all the way through this.

Scorpio Oct. 23 – Nov. 21

You're on edge, and no wonder. Some highly sensitive astral energy is over stimulating your emotions. Pay attention to your nervous system. Do yoga and go on long walks in order to soothe yourself.

Sagittarius Nov. 22 – Dec. 21

Look for the good rather than automatically honing in on the negative. You'll be able to see beauty where you've never seen it before. Not only that, you'll be able to spot opportunity in the tightest circumstance.

Capricorn Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

Examine your long-term dreams and goals. Do they fit the current program you're pursuing? If they don't, it's time to review your strategy. It's not too late to change directions and go after what truly matters.

Aquarius Jan. 20 – Feb. 18

Pay close attention to your inner processes. That might mean that you need to go somewhere very quiet. What about a peaceful evening at home, or a few hours at a local library or bookstore? Your own thoughts come first.

Pisces Feb. 19 – March 20

Some emotions are strictly for your eyes and ears only, so think twice before you confide in someone – even one of your nearest and dearest. Keep your game face on in public, at least for now.

(By Chu Meng)



Eye skin care

Although our skin is our largest organ, not all of it is created equal. For example, the skin on the scalp has embedded hair follicles, and the skin of the nose and cheeks tend to have active glands. The skin around your eyes is very sensitive and delicate, which needs good care at all ages. Whether its summer or winter, follow some simple guidelines to have healthier skin around your eyes!

General idea:

1. To reduce the dark circles around your eyes, no matter what your age is, get at least seven to eight hours sleep every night. Sleeping with your head slightly elevated helps you work against gravity; avoiding fluid collecting in your lower eyelids resulting in dark circles.
2. Use an eye cream to keep moisture in the skin.
3. When applying cream or make up around the eyes use the ring finger (as it exerts less pressure).

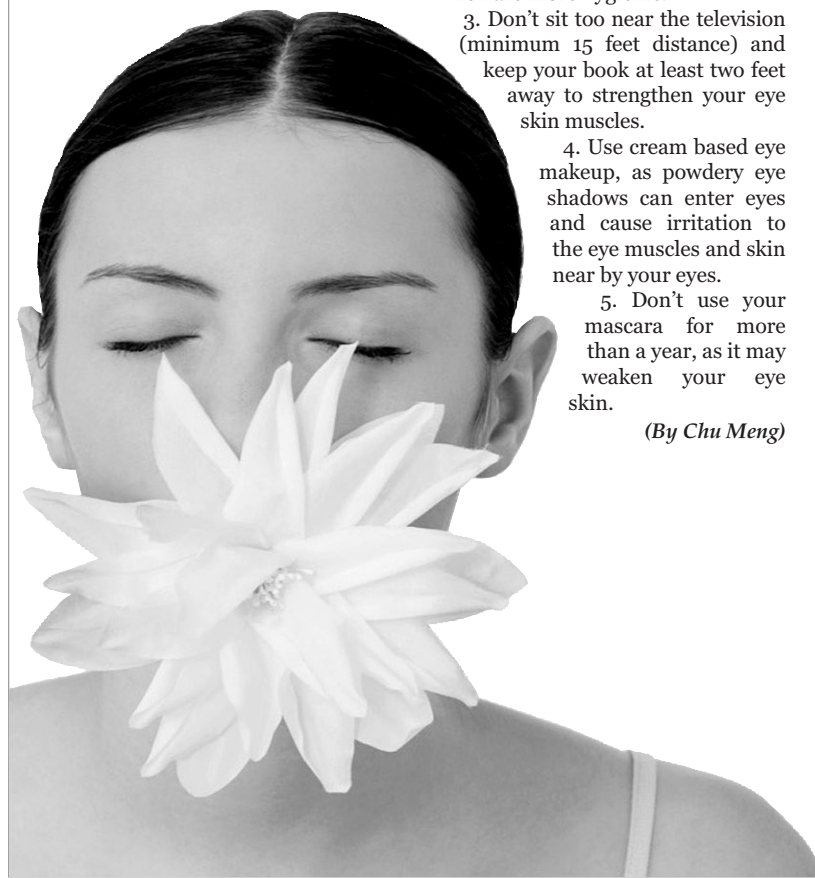
What to do to soften and rejuvenate your eye skin:

1. Dip cotton pads in chilled milk and place on closed eyes for 10 minutes. Now relax completely. This is to relax the eye skin muscles when they are tired after working with computers.
2. Grate a potato with its peel and apply on your closed eyelids for about 20 minutes and relax completely. This is so your eyes have firm muscles.
3. Put sliced cucumber over your eyes to avoid developing dark circles.
4. Wash your eyes with cold water often to get a sparkling feel for your eye skin.

Donts:

1. Don't wear contact lenses for extended periods of time or overnight as this makes your eyes feel tiring and hence puts unnecessary strain on your eye skin.
2. Don't use handkerchiefs to wipe eyes, instead use disposable tissues, which are more hygienic.
3. Don't sit too near the television (minimum 15 feet distance) and keep your book at least two feet away to strengthen your eye skin muscles.
4. Use cream based eye makeup, as powdery eye shadows can enter eyes and cause irritation to the eye muscles and skin near by your eyes.
5. Don't use your mascara for more than a year, as it may weaken your eye skin.

(By Chu Meng)



Enjoy healthy sunless tanning all year long

By Qiu Jiaoning

You don't have to wait for the summer to get a golden tone all over your body. Bronze skin looks great, gives a healthy glow, and makes you look thinner. Many famous brands, such as Bobbi Brown, Chanel, Lancôme, Clarins and more have self-tanning products, so you don't have to soak up harmful rays or wait for the summer.

Sunless tanning products are generally regarded as safe alternatives to sunbathing, according to the American Academy of Dermatology. The active ingredient in most sunless tanning products is DHA. When applied to your skin, DHA reacts with dead cells in the outermost layer of skin to temporarily darken the skin's appearance. The coloring doesn't wash off, but it gradually fades as the dead skin cells slough off. In most cases, the color is completely gone after five to seven days.

Though generally recognized as safe, sunless tanning products do carry some risks, depending on how they're used and applied. Yang Lei, a college teacher and a sun worshipper, recommends self-tanning lotions that remain tan-looking while avoiding harmful UV rays. "Even though the color is nice, and I like what it does, I've found my skin tends to stay tacky for a while and have not yet found a way to combat streaks," she said.

Lorette Lyttle, writer of *Makeup Secrets Revealed* offers the following tips to using self-tanning products.

1. Choose a light or medium-toned product, which tends to look more natural.
2. Rinse skin thoroughly. There can be no soap film from your last bubble bath.
3. Do not apply moisturizer before applying the tanning product.
4. Thoroughly rub the self-tanner into the skin to avoid streaks.
5. Do not apply to knees, elbows or feet.
6. Wash hands to remove the product.
7. Allow color to develop and wash the area well after the color has fully developed.

Most sunless tanning products don't contain a sunscreen and, therefore, don't protect your skin from sun damage. If you spend time outdoors, be sure to apply a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 before hand.

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Doctor's opinion: face lifts improve your skin texture

Dr Fiona Chang:

As we age, our faces begin to show the effects of gravity, sun exposure and years of facial muscle movement. The underlying tissues that keep our skin looking youthful and plumped up begin to break down.

Non-surgical injections, most commonly used collagen or fat or the cosmetic form of botulinum toxin can temporarily reduce or eliminate frown lines, forehead creases,

crows feet near the eyes and thick bands in the neck. But they last for only six months at most.

An alternative surgical method is face lifting.

In order to provide a natural non-operated-on improvement to the facial skin, the surgeon should have an intimate knowledge of the anatomy of the layers of the facial soft tissues. This is because newer more effective techniques of face lifting involve

the tightening of layers of sinew and muscle deeper than the facial skin, in addition to tightening the facial skin itself and removing excess skin.

The patient may go home the same day. The details of the specific type of face-lift best suited to your specific aesthetic concerns and the placement of the incisions is determined and discussed at length during your consultation.

Dr Fiona Chang and Dr Tony Prochazka are cosmetic

surgeons from Bioscor International Clinic for Cosmetic Medicine who specializes in face lifting, liposculpture, and breast enlargement.

Bioscor Beijing Clinic

Where: Room 1008E-Tower No. 12 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6503 5707 / 5706
Email: beijing@bioscor.com.cn
www.bioscor.com.cn

(By Chu Meng)



Tangla Mountain Section of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway



Yangbajing

CFP Photos

Rolling through ancient and mysterious Tibet

After describing the scenery along the railway in Qinghai last week, now we enter Tibet. As the train approaches Tangla Mountain Station, the sixth station along the Qinghai-Tibet Railway line (at an altitude of 4,780 meters it is the second highest railway station in the world), the line enters the Tibetan section of the railway.

The source of the Yangtze River is in Tibet, and there is also the Tuotuo River, the highest peaks of the Tangla Mountains, and Geladandong and Jianggendiru glaciers. Geladandong and Jianggendiru glaciers are all natural solid reservoirs.

Tongtian River

Continuing the journey south, the train enters the Tangla Mountains. The physical features are not as striking as before, with a chain of grass-covered mountains gently undulating in the distance.

Passing Tongtian River Bridge, the train goes into an area of gorges. The Tongtian River is broad and slow moving, more than 800 kilometers long, and flows across the Tangla and Kunlun mountains ranges.

Tangla Mountain Pass

The train then moves deeper into Tangla Mountains, stopping at Tangla Station. At an altitude of 5,072 meters it is the highest railway station in the world.

The mountain is divided into eastern and western parts. The western part offers a cold, desert vista, while the eastern side offers views of shrub and grasslands.

The pass is the natural boundary of Qinghai Province and Tibet Autonomous Region. The earth is under constant permafrost and the weather is unstable. Even in summer, the road here is usually blocked by heavy snow. The oxygen content in the air is only 60 percent of that at sea level. Generally speaking, passengers will have some reaction to the high altitude.

Qiangtang grassland

Departing from the Tangla Mountain Pass, you enter Tibet Autonomous Region. The first district you go through is Naqu District in the northern part of Tibet.

Naqu means 'black river' in the Tibetan language. The area is

called 'Qiangtang Grasslands' by locals (Qiangtang means 'northern grasslands' in Tibetan). The whole district is in the central area of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and surrounded by Tangla Mountains, Nyainqentanglha Mountains and Gandise Mountains. The average altitude here is around 4,500 meters.

Naqu District is a place with a long history. Since the beginning of the 1950s, geologists and archaeologists discovered many stone implements here, whose shape and production techniques are typical of nomadic cultures.

The train stops at Naqu Town, a tourist area. The horseracing festival in August is an important event in the northern part of Tibet. The summer scenery in Naqu is like a painting consisting of blue sky, white clouds, rainbow, cows and sheep, and green grasslands. If you are lucky to visit here in time, you will have the chance to experience the local people's warm-hearted welcome and their talent for dancing and singing.

Grasslands selected by God

After Naqu Town, the train enters a highland marsh area. On this part of the line, you can usually see herdsman's huts on the grassland. In order to guard against the windstorms on the plateau, the huts are built a little lower than usual. Cows, sheep and horses are usually



Tangla Mountains

grazing or playing around the scattered dwelling.

As more evidence of life appears along the line, the train approaches Dangquka Town in Dangxiong. Dangxiong is located to the east of Nam-tso Lake, the highest altitude lake in the world. Dangxiong means 'the selected grasslands' in the Tibetan language.

Dangquka Town is a busy place that makes you feel like you are in Lhasa. The Dangxiong Railway Station reflects the blending of modern architecture style with Tibetan features. Dangxiong is famous for its horseracing festival as well. Archery, horsemanship, Tibetan weight lifting, and tug-of-war are also popular activities.

Nyainqentanglha Mountains

The train will go across the last mountain chain along the railway: Nyainqentanglha Mountains.

Nyainqentanglha Mountains is where the Brahmaputra and Nujiang rivers part. The average altitude is above 6,000 meters. At the west side of the railway, on the Dangxiong grasslands, four peaks



Nam-tso Lake



Naqu

of more than 7,000 meters high line the route.

End of the line

Yangbajing Town is the eighth station on the line. Passing an alpine area of gorges, the train approaches Duilongdeqing County. Trees start to reappear, mostly Tibetan willow.

Next the Lhasa River appears and the train is getting closer and closer to the final destination, the holy city, Lhasa. At an altitude of 3,700 meters, the area attracts people with its 1,300-year history and religious atmosphere.

Located in Maburishan Mountain (Red Mountain), Potala Palace is the most popular tourist destination and the symbol of the holy city. The Potala Palace was built 1,300 years ago and is the fruit of Han and Tibetan cultural communications. It is a combination of temples, castles

and a palace. There are exquisite paintings and carvings in the palace.

Jokhang Monastery is another place popular among visitors. It is the first example of wooden architecture in Lhasa.

Tibetan food, and drinks like highland barley liquor and ghee tea, must be sampled. On Deji Road in the city, snacks and food of different flavors are provided. There are also western restaurants and bars. Most of the visitors go there after they arrive in Lhasa.

(By Jackie Zhang)



Qiangtang grassland



Sunset at Walvis Bay

History

In 1487, Walvis Bay was 'discovered' by Bartholomeu Diaz, the Portuguese navigator who was the first to round the Cape of Good Hope, and was annexed in 1793 by the Cape Dutch. Two years later, the British annexed it. In 1910, Walvis Bay became - like the entire Cape Colony - part of the South African Union. After Namibia's independence, the only deep sea harbor on the Namibian coast remained under South African rule and only in 1994 did the former South African president FW de Klerk agree to return it to Namibia.



Pelicans at Walvis Bay lagoon

Walvis Bay in Namibia has become the latest celebrity hot spot after a pregnant Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt chose this location to bring their daughter, Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt, into the world last month. If you are one of those potential stalkers obsessed with all things celebrity, the following will provide you with some valuable information about this tropical paradise.

Walvis Bay: Hot spot for celebrity fanatics

The seabird's lagoon

As a coastal city, Walvis Bay has a huge natural lagoon, the Walvis Bay lagoon. It is a recognized international bird sanctuary that includes some of the most significant coastal wetlands in Southern Africa.

The lagoon is a seabirds' paradise, a happy and safe haven for up to 160,000 birds, as well as a feeding station for 200,000 shore birds and terns on their biannual migration routes to and from the Arctic region.

Some 70 percent of the world's Chestnutbanded Plovers rely on Walvis Bay Lagoon for their survival, and 80 percent of all flamingos in Southern Africa feed in this lagoon wetland.

Binocular are a must to view the innumerable birds at low tide.

Adventures

Levo Seal & Dolphin Cruises

Ski boats depart from Walvis Bay Lagoon at the Yacht Club, through the harbor to the bird island, the pelican point and back. During the trip, a variety of birds can be seen. You can also feed seals by hand on the boat.

Fresh oysters, champagne, snacks and refreshments are served near the seal colony.

Tel: 064 207555
Mobile: 081 1296270

Mola Mola - marine & desert adventure

The Marine & Desert Adventure will give you a full day of 4x4 adventure, departing from Walvis Bay to view the picturesque natural lagoon at Sandwich Harbor, surrounded by massive sand dunes and inhabited by a great variety of birds. The return route passes through the Kuiseb Delta, containing dunes that provide the opportunity to watch springboks, oryxes and ostriches.

Bookings:

Tel: 064 205511
Mobile: 081 1272522
Fax: 064 207593

Sea Ace adventure angling

Do you want to experience catching a 300-pound bronze whaler shark from the shore? You can do both shore angling and deep-sea angling at Walvis Bay.

The shore fishing in Namibia is generally good all year round. However, as all anglers know, the weather and water conditions play a big role regarding results.

Tel: 264 64206363
Mobile: 264 811285068
Fax: 264 64205087



Dolphin at Walvis Bay



Sandwich Harbor



Gemsbok in the Park

Namib-Naukluft Park

The Namib Naukluft Park is the largest game park in Africa (40,000 sq. km) and fourth largest in the world, covering much of the central Namib Desert and Naukluft Mountains. It is home to some of the most rare and unusual plant and animal species in the world, including the Welwitschia Mirabilis, large lichen fields and Hartmann's Mountain Zebra. Mammals like steenbok, springbok, oryx, kudu, mountain zebra, dassie rat, chacma baboon, rock dassie, klipspringer, are likely to be seen in the park. Up to 200 bird species have been recorded in the area.

The park has four sections: Sossusvlei and Sesriem, Naukluft, Namib section and Sandwich Harbor, which feature tourist attractions as Sossusvlei, Sesriem, the Welwitschia trail, Sandwich Harbour, the Naukluft Mountains and the Kuiseb Canyon.

Sossusvlei is one of the places definitely worth visiting in Namibia. Huge red sand dunes, camel thorn trees and vlei (shallow water ponds that fill up during times of rain) are the attractions of the area.

A unique experience is the adventurous 48-kilometer drive to Sandwich Harbor, a freshwater lagoon surrounded by dunes, and a favorite amongst anglers and ornithologists.

For this drive, a 4x4 is indispensable. The course of the road is difficult to identify in places, and long stretches lead through deep soft sand. The last stretch has to be done by foot.

Dune 7

If you want to experience the wonders of the desert environment, visit Dune 7, the largest of the local coastal dunes. It is located on the outskirts of Walvis Bay and is the highest sand dune in the area. Approximate travel time from Walvis Bay is 20 minutes, but the climb to the top may take a little bit longer.

This trip can be combined with

a visit to the unique Welwitschia flats to view Walvis Bay's four million year old national plant heritage. Facilities for barbecues are available at Dune 7 in the shade of desert palms.

Adventures Sand boarding

You can go sand boarding at Dune 7. You don't need to have any experience. All you need to do is to

stand up or lie down on the board and slide down. Includes free shuttle service and professional instructors. Drinks and snacks are also available.

Tel: 064 204400,
Mobile: 081 1277636

Quad riding

Also, you can have a guided tour into the Namib Desert by quad bike. There are automatic

quads for those with less experience of quad riding. There are also semi-automatic quads for the more experienced. Free shuttle service and refreshments are also available on site.

Tel: 264 811293906 or 264 812437744

Fax: 264 64209682

(By Jackie Zhang)

Photos by walvisbay.com.na



Park Flamingoes in the desert



By Han Manman

Students post their résumés on Ogilvy's website throughout the year. Whenever they have job or intern positions available, they select qualified candidates from the company talent pool and call them in for interviews. Ogilvy calls their Human Resources department a 'Talent Recourses Center'. "We treasure everyone in Ogilvy, we consider all our employees to be the cream of the crop," said Stella Sun, Talent Resources Manager at Ogilvy and Mather in Beijing.



Ogilvy interns – the cream of the crop



Huang Silu, who works for Ogilvy Advertising, got a degree from the School of International Studies at Peking University. She joined Ogilvy in June 2005 after a three-month internship.

When I was a university student, I was eager to work for Ogilvy, so I sent my resume to their website. I wanted to work for a company where I could be creative rather than end up doing the same thing day after day. I knew that at Ogilvy I would be given that opportunity.

My two interviews went smoothly. The interviewers asked some straightforward questions such as why I chose Ogilvy. My second interview was interesting. My boss asked me if there was someone I really hated or disliked. I said there wasn't. A year on I've been thinking about why my boss asked me this question. I think maybe in advertising circles, you may meet different people and you may encounter customers or clients who are very demanding. Whatever happens, you have to stay calm and focused.

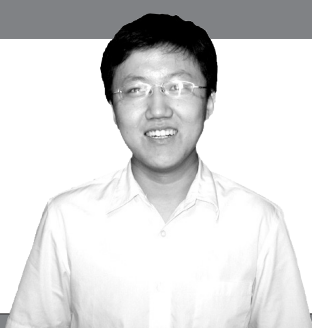
At the start of my internship, I was doing a television project for LG. Every week, I had to go to lots of supermarkets and take photos. Every month, I had to do a very long PowerPoint presentation to analyze the sales performance of different television brands in different supermarkets. I also had to collect news about the television industry. I learnt a lot from these tasks.

My internship also trained me how to deal with a lot of things at the same time and develop a sense of responsibility. Any mistake I made could end up influencing the whole project so I had to learn to become responsible.

On my first day at Ogilvy, I copied three thick books, including invoices and quotations, until 11:30pm. Everyone else put the paper into the copy machine and pressed the copy menu but I copied them one by one to avoid blocking the machine. I thought that I had done a perfect job when I finished it. But the next day, my boss pointed out over 40 sheets that could not be read because I had not adjusted the print color. I was really angry with myself for failing such an easy task.

My advice to students would be: even if your company gives you the easiest task, make sure you do the best job. You need to start by doing the easy things well. Being an intern is very hard; you need to do lots of trivial things. But when you look back on it two or three months later, you realize how much you've learned.

Comments from Stella Sun: Silu showed us that she could work well under pressure. When she was an intern, she worked on several LG projects. The work itself was very tough, she had to work under a lot of pressure. Silu is very determined; she could take the pressure and did the work well and quickly. During her internship we learned that she had the personality that we like our employees to have.



Cong Jie: works for Ogilvy, majored in Journalism at the Communications University of China. Jie joined Ogilvy in November 2004 after a seven-month internship.

I never thought I would end up working in PR because my major was in news. My previous intern experiences had been in media companies and I thought I would go on to become a reporter or editor. But I decided to apply for Ogilvy Advertising anyway. My first interviewer was Stella. She asked me about my strengths and weaknesses, how much I knew about Ogilvy and gave me an English test. Although I failed my first interview, the HR department decided that my media background would suit PR so they asked me to come for another interview at Ogilvy PR. I passed the PR interview very easily.

I was careless at the beginning of the internship. Take my news releases as an example. I needed to record a press conference, so I took a small tape recorder but forgot to use it. I made the same mistake three times. My boss did not know what to say to me. Because I was so careless, I felt under a lot of stress. But over time I realized that details are very important and I became less careless.

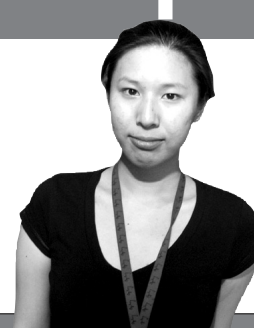
On my first day I had to bind a report. I didn't know how to use the machine. One of my colleagues showed me how to use it but I still couldn't work it out. I was embarrassed to ask again, so I stood there trying to work out how to use it for nearly half an hour. At the time I thought I was so stupid. My internship lasted a long time but I needed it because there was so much I had to learn. When you become a regular employee you immediately come under a lot more pressure and have little time to adjust to it. The internship is a period to adjust to the company.

I think the main reason my bosses chose me was because I am a man. In PR companies most employees are girls so they picked me to bring some different elements to the team.

Comments from Stella Sun: Cong Jie is a very trustworthy person. He is very considerate and arranges work in perfect order; this is a very important point for an intern. His bosses can give him work without worrying about it not getting done.

Ogilvy Beijing has over 50 interns selected from as many as 5,000 students who send their resumes to the company. "To work for Ogilvy you need to meet six of our requirements: curiosity, agility, passion, bravery, accountability, collaboration. As the experience of the three interns below shows, they are incredibly important characteristics for our company."

"Some of the students I interview are very talented and have passion and ambition. But some come across as though they are not being themselves. I doubt if these people are going to be good team players."



Liu Yaya: works in Ogilvy PR, majored in Advertising from Xiamen University. Yaya joined Ogilvy in August 2005 after a three-month internship.

I felt very rushed for my interview. I sent my resume to Ogilvy's website without knowing when they would get back to me. I received a phone call shortly afterwards telling me to come to the company's offices in the morning. Before that, I went to a friend's party and did not get home until midnight. So I felt pretty unprepared for the interview.

This was my first interview for a job so I was really nervous. My first interviewer was my boss and the second interview was with Stella. Both of them asked very basic questions.

As an intern I quickly learned that what I had read about in books was very different to the reality of the work place. I studied public relations for a year but I found that the theory bore no relation to the reality. Working at Ogilvy, I feel like I'm working with really talented people. Everyone has a strong point. The three-month internship was a fantastic training for me before starting work for real.

On my first day my boss asked me to proofread some company information for an exhibition. I worked until the 11:30pm that night. I spent the following week working with another intern doing proofreading and made mistakes time and again until my boss phoned me at 10:30pm to say, "That's it!"

I think Ogilvy chose me for two reasons. One is my talent, the other is I have my own ideas and the desire to learn new things. When I do everything, I try to do it well. My advertising background also brings me some advantages. Now I help to train some of the interns. The most important thing to remember during your internship is to have a good attitude. You may think some of the work is too easy but it's important to give even the most minor tasks your full attention to make sure you do them to the best of your ability.

Comments from Stella Sun: What impressed us about Yaya is her ability to think and learn. She did not have much PR experience before she came to us but she managed to combine what she learned from the team and give it new input. She is very creative and comes up with lots of new ideas. She is also someone who is not afraid to express her own opinions. Some interns find it difficult getting involved with the team but Yaya had no difficulty with this. If you have an idea just say it. Even if your boss does not adopt the idea, the fact that you came up with an idea will show your boss and workmates that you can use your brain and have initiative.

No matter what task we gave to Yaya, she carried it out quickly and well. She thinks it through, comes up with new ideas and communicates with her colleagues.

(Photos by Han Manman)

Teaching assistant in classical Chinese language

By Feng Nianhua

What's my career aim? I didn't know the answer if someone asked me several years ago. But now, I know my dream is to be a professor at domestic universities, teaching Chinese history or classical Chinese literature. I've graduated from Yantai Teacher's College with the major of history education for almost five years; however, I haven't had too much teaching experience. The days as a teaching assistant (TA) in Canada are thus valuable treasures to me.

I was appointed to help professor Schmidt to teach classical Chinese language. At first, I was so surprised to find that he was so profound in Chinese classical culture; "he know almost everything about traditional China", as said Cha Joo Hang, my classmate and just got accepted to

study a PhD program at Harvard University, which enhanced my opinion that he was truly a knowledgeable "gerund-grinder"!

What the interesting is, compared to the learned professor, his students was on the other hand. Asian Studies has a strict policy to ban ineligible native Chinese students selecting Chinese courses; since so many Chinese students whose language ability has already overtopped what the teaching goal reached expected to select Chinese courses to pass easier the final examinations every year. So, the students' level in Chinese probably equals to that of domestic high school students'.

Generally, the students who selected classical Chinese language were Chinese-origin children who born in Canada, so

called CBC compared with ABC (America born Chinese), whatever their families from mainland, Hong Kong or Taiwan areas; or few Canadians who had learned Chinese a long time and reached a relatively high level.

A TA is required to help his professor prepare for the class. But I didn't need it, since professor Schmidt liked to do it by him-



Feng Nianhua

self. I was only told at first that I'd better attend his class to get acquaintance with what he taught in class; the method and structure the western scholars used to study Classical Chinese language is so different from what we've learned in China's schools. I gave up going to the class after a semester, partially due to my moving outside the campus.

Indeed, the task for me is marking, including midterm and final examinations, and even regular excises if my professor was busy. Of course, I also invigilate for him.

Almost all TAs set up office hours. But seldom students went to my office to ask questions; I didn't know whether they went to ask their professor. I always gave a propositional grade to each student depending on his or her paper, and professor finally

changed it according to other factors. So, explaining why they got his referenced score was my main business in my office hours. At first, I went to my office every Friday morning, and later only the first or second week after examinations. If they have questions, they could phone me or emailed to me, then we made an appointment to meet with each other anywhere we were both convenient.

Maybe, at last, what I should mention is every year's get-together on Spring Festival in Asian Studies. That's the real happiness time for all the professors, TAs and students, watching programs performed by teachers and students, immersed in the traditional Chinese culture; of course, all the people attendance had chances to taste delicious Chinese foods!

Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

John Gordon's reply

Dear Feng Nianhua,

Many students who are planning to go abroad are very curious about the role of TAs in foreign universities, and I think your description of your time as a TA at a Canadian university will be very helpful to them. Of course, TAs can play many different roles - at some universities, TAs actually teach classes, while you were primarily responsible for assisting the professor and students - but your personal account provides a perspective that is difficult to find on university websites and in study abroad reference books.

While the information you provide is interesting and useful, you could certainly improve the organization of your essay. Your second paragraph in particular is not related to the main theme of your essay. While I'm sure that the example you provide is of interest to your readers, in a short essay such as this one I would advise you to have each paragraph related in some way to your main topic. In the case of your second paragraph, you could rework it so that it focuses more on the students who were actually in the class, while also mentioning the "ABC/CBC" situation. I also think your essay would gain from your further exploring the connection between your time as a TA and the origins of your dream of

becoming a professor.

There are quite a few grammar mistakes in your essay, and many of them are ones that I think you would catch yourself if you did a careful rereading. For instance, in your first paragraph you quote your classmate as saying, "he know almost everything about traditional China", when I am certain that you know you should write, "he knows". Also, in English writing it is important for your tenses to be consistent, so instead of writing "If they have questions, they could phone me or emailed to me," you should write, "If they had questions, they could phone or email me," or, "If they had questions, then phoned or emailed me". See if you can revise the rest of the sentence to have the correct tenses. Finally, we don't say, "happiness time", because happiness is a noun; a better



John Gordon, from the US, is the vice president of Beijing New Channel School

expression is "happy time".

Your essay is almost always easy to understand, but there are some usage mistakes that might confuse a native speaker. First of all, you begin your second paragraph by writing, "What the interesting is", when a more accurate expression would be "The interesting thing is that..." In the same sentence, you state that "his students was on the other hand". "On the other hand" is a common English expression, but it is usually used together with "on the one hand" to express two different sides of an issue. In the absence of "on the one hand", it is best to substitute "however" or "but" for "on the other hand". Your sentence could be rewritten as follows: "The professor was very learned, but the students knew almost nothing about the subject." Or you could write, "The interesting thing was that, while the professor was very knowledgeable about the subject, the students had almost no background in the field." Also, in your fourth paragraph you write, "seldom students went to my office", but we would usually say "students seldom went to my office".

I hope that you keep working to improve your writing, and that you someday fulfill your dream of becoming a professor!

All the best,

John

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see some Chinglish signs.

Take a picture and send to shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Promises of pleasure



By Philip Space

Any assistance?

We can help you with our pleasure.

The budget for this advert, spotted above a lift in an office building in Beijing, must have been small, as they obviously could not afford to get the language checked. Although there are no spelling mistakes there are a couple of glaring gram-

matical errors.

'Any assistance?' is not a question because there is no question word before the verb. A native English speaker would write 'Can we be of assistance?' It is clear what the advertisers are trying to say in the second line but the sentence structure is still sloppy. A better way to phrase it would be 'We are happy to help.'



Spelling shocker

By Philip Space

The construction passage is careful to meet

The developers who hung this sign at the front of their construction site clearly had little real concern for the public's safety. It is so badly written, with a muddled sentence structure and one glaring spelling error, that it is

hard to know what the message is. By 'careful', the authors presumably mean 'careful'. The verb should come before the object, so 'careful' or 'care' should come before 'construction passage.' A native English speaker would write something like 'Take care near the construction site.'

Photos provided by Purple Haze Restaurant & Bar

(By Chen Shasha)

Friday, June 30

Exhibition
Video Exhibition by
Richard Wilson

Where: Platform China 798 Project Room, 4th floor, 311 building, No.4 Jiuxianqiao Road, 798 Art district, Chaoyang.

When: 1pm-6pm, Wednesday-Sunday, until July 16
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 0169, 6435 7195

Movie
Mondovino

A story of taste and tradition, vines and values, Jonathan Nossiter's *Mondovino* is a cross-continental exploration of wine as metaphor and monopoly. The film finds the wine business at a philosophical crossroads. Is it an industry or an art form? Should wine be made by poets or profiteers? Is artificially aging wine sacrilegious or shrewd?

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.
When: 5:30pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Peut-etre

Duris and Peilhas are at loggerheads: She wants a child, he doesn't.

During a Millennium Eve party, he climbs through a skylight and finds himself in 2070.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.
When: 8pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

The World

Chinese director Jia Zhangke turns to Beijing city life in *The World*, after confronting urbanization in Northern China in his first three features, *Unknown Pleasures*, *Platform*, and



Xiao Wu (Pickpocket).

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: 7pm and 9pm
Admission: 30-50 yuan
Tel: 13901134745

Saturday, July 1

Exhibition
Feng Yu Sole Exhibition

Feng Yu's paintings use images of children and cartoon-like images to realize a kind of naivety and simplicity.

Where: Qin Gallery, Hua Wei Li 1-1E (North of Beijing

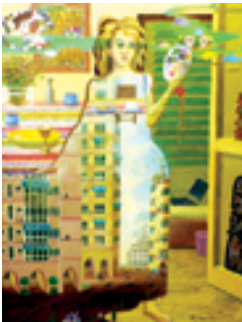
Curio City), Chaoyang
When: 9:30am-7pm, until July 31

Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461

No Recollection - Zhang Hui's Oil Paintings

Where: Gallery Beijing Space, 3818 Warehouse, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang
When: 10am-6:30pm, Monday-Sunday, until July 20

Admission: Free
Tel: 13381221188, 13717634409

Group Exhibition of Oil Paintings

Where: New Art Center, 136 Nanchizi Street, Dongcheng
When: 9am-6pm, until July 15

Admission: Free
Tel: 6526 8098

Music**Two Flowers on a Stem - Jon Jang Solo Piano**

Where: South Gate Space, No. 4 Jiuxianqiao Road, 798 Art District, Chaoyang
When: 8pm
Admission: 80-100 yuan



Tel: 6438 2797
6437 9737
8456 4949

Sunday, July 2

**Exhibition**
Young Italian Artists At The Turn Of The Millennium

A collective exhibition of Italian artists as part of a series of events organized for the Year of Italian Culture in China.

Where: Galleria Continua Beijing, Dashanzi 798, No. 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: 11am-6pm, Tuesday-Sunday, until August 20

Admission: Free
Tel: 6436 1005

Red Gate's 15th Anniversary Exhibition
Red Gate will celebrate its 15th anniversary

with an exhibition of works by 19 gallery artists.

Where: Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen and 798/Red Gate Gallery, No 2 Jiu Xianqiao, Chaoyang

When: 10am-5pm, until August 27
Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

In Between - Solo Exhibition of Xing Hailong

Where: One Moon Gallery, Ditan Park, Dongcheng
When: 11am-7pm, Tuesday-Sunday, until August 6
Admission: Free
Tel: 6427 7748

Outdoor**Horse Riding**

Where: Go horseback riding in Hebei Province.

When: Meet at the Big Easy, South Gate of Chaoyang Park at 8:30am and return at 4:30pm the same day.

Cost: 270 yuan

Tel: 13011171326 (The High Club)

Stage in July

Performance
Wolves and Sheep

Who: Studio of Pyotr Fomenko
When: July 4-5
Where: Capital Theatre, No.

22 Wangfujing Road, Dongcheng

Admission: 80-500 yuan

The Nutcracker Puppet Show

Who: The China Puppet Art Troupe

When: July 1-16

Where: China Puppet Theater, Anhuaxili, Chaoyang

Admission: 30-240 yuan

I Can't Decide Now

Who: The Beijing People's Art Troupe

When: July 7-31
Where: Beijing People's Art Theater, 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng
Admission: 60-280 yuan

Music**Great Symphony Orchestra Chorus Concert**

Who: National Ballet of China Symphony Orchestra and Hong Kong Oratorio Society

When: 7:30 pm, July 15

Where: Beijing Concert Hall,

1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng
Admission: 60-480 yuan

The Happy Lesson of Piano
Famous Piano Works of the World

Who: Piano Faculty Adviser - Takahashi Masae

When: 7:30 pm, July 21

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

Admission: 20-100 yuan

Voice of an Angel

Who: The Canadian Columbia Child's Voice Choir

When: July 15-16
Where: Poly Theatre, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng
Admission: 50-480 yuan

Army Songs

Who: Army singers including Nie Jianhua, Dong Yong, Cheng Zhi and Pan Shuzhen.

When: July 31

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

Admission: 80-680 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)